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Japan

Nation's Post-Cold War Security Policy Viewed

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[Article by Shunji Yanai, director of the General Foreign Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: "Japan's Security Policy in the Post-Cold War Era — The Changes in the International Environment and Their Influence"]

[Text] The year 1995 is becoming a very important year, not only because it corresponds to the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, but because the year is being marked by important changes seen from the viewpoint of world peace and international stability, as well as from the viewpoint of Japan's security policy. On the international front, the U.S.-Russia START treaty, which was the first strategic arms reduction treaty in history, came into effect in December 1994, while a new treaty, START II, is now awaiting ratification. Moreover, an international agreement was reached on May 11 regarding indefinite extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), which has functioned as the principal means to check the spread of nuclear weapons since 1970. As for Japan, it is now faced with a series of important security issues.

For instance, the Japanese Government has just begun to study how to strengthen mutual cooperation with the United States under the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty setup. It should also wind up discussions on how to revise the 1976 National Defense Program Outlines, which served as the basis of Japan's defense plan for almost 20 years. Before tackling these issues, it is of primary importance to clearly define the basic line of Japan's security policy in the post-Cold War era.

In this report, I would like to explain my own opinion about what Japan's future security policy should be, by making reference to the changes that occurred in the international environment after the end of the Cold War. Please note that the contents of this report are entirely based on my personal opinion.

The Three Factors That Should Be Taken Into Account When Considering Japan's Post-Cold War Security Policy

In considering both global and national security issues of the post-Cold War era, we should first determine changes the end of the Cold War brought about to the international environment. These changes are, in fact, too numerous. Here, I would like to particularly point out the following three changes that have most important bearings on Japan's post-Cold War security policy.

1. The Change in U.S.-Soviet (Russia) relations and the Position Currently Held by Russia in the International Community.

Needless to say, the fundamental aspect of the end of the Cold War was the qualitative change in U.S.-Soviet relations. This change triggered most of the other changes that have occurred since the end of the Cold War. We have to look at these changes on the whole and keep the following two points in mind.

The first point is that the possibility of world war decreased considerably thanks to the change in U.S.-Soviet relations. The end of the Cold War is highly appreciated in this sense. On the other hand, the end of Cold War also brought about new problems, such as frequent outbreaks of regional disputes and complication of the nuclear control issue. Thus, each government's policy-maker is now asked to work out carefully thought out measures to cope with the new situation. It has often been said the first task of the international community in the post-Cold War era is to establish a new international order. In other words, policymakers have a long and hard fight ahead of them, as they will have to deal with more complicated issues in a more versatile way.

The U.S.-Soviet relations suddenly changed, as the eastern World has been going through a process of disruption. The second point is that Russia itself is still in a transformation stage. The future of Russia is becoming increasingly unclear. The problem is that the international community has to try to establish a new international order, without knowing what will happen to Russia; that is, without knowing how to exactly redefine Russia's position from the viewpoint of international security.

In brief, the current situation can be described as follows. The global change in hostile relations between the United States and the Soviet Union created both favorable results and new problems. The international community is having difficulties dealing with arising new problems, because it is unable to form a clear view of Russia, which is a key member nation. This is the first important factor that has to be taken into account when we consider the post-Cold War era.

2. Redefinition and the Role of Existing Alliances.

Basically, the Soviet Union could not help changing, because the democratic system and the market economy system proved superior to its own systems. Seen from the viewpoint of security, the most important factor that helped change the Soviet Union was the solidarity of the Western nations. The political and military solidarity of the Western nations was founded on two solid bases: the

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Europe, and the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty setup in the Far East. The fact that the Cold War ended in victory for the Western world proved two important things, which were indicative of the future role of these existing alliances.

First, the end of the Cold War, by which the importance of the existing alliances was justified, proved that the most reliable alliances of the Western world should be maintained as long as uncertainty prevails in today's international community.

Second, the end of the Cold War also proved the necessity of promoting reforms in Russia, while building a new system, which will enable the international community to cope with various new crises in a more effective way.

Since the end of the Cold War, NATO has gradually been playing a wider role, with the object of creating a new security framework for the whole of Europe. It is emphasizing its new aspect as a "political alliance," while maintaining its original function as a collective defense alliance. The NATO of today is actively engaged in multilateral activities that were inconceivable during the Cold War era. These are: promoting dialogue and cooperation with the former members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization [WTO] through the newly established North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC); establishing the so-called Partnership For Peace (PFP) with them; working in close cooperation with them to deal with the situation in the former Yugoslavia; emphasizing peacekeeping activities; making further efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation; and developing the concept of the CJTF (Combined Joint Tactical Force), which serves to provide specific military assistance to nonmember countries.

As a matter of course, it is not possible to regard the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty setup in the same light as NATO. However, even under a bilateral security setup, it should be possible for the two nations to cooperate with other countries, while maintaining the existing reliable alliance between them.

3. The Creation of Broad Partnerships.

The third important factor is that there is now movement afoot to create broad partnerships between Western nations and other nations that were once regarded as "hostile countries" or "unfriendly states." This idea is sometimes called "cooperative security." It was first seen in Europe in 1975 with the creation of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which was renamed "Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)" in January 1995. There was an important change in the function of CSCE after the end of the Cold War. During the Cold War era, its primary objective was to make Western and Eastern nations trust in each other, in a bid to avoid hair-trigger crises. After the end of the Cold War, its primary objective changed into providing a new framework under which all member nations are able to cooperate with one another in order to reach a common policy goal, while disregarding the past East-West confrontation.

Meanwhile, the Asia-Pacific region could not be described only by the bipolar confrontation between NATO and WTO. There was a third nation playing a leading part on the scene: China. Comparatively speaking, the end of the Cold War had fewer repercussions in the Asia-Pacific region because of the established geopolitical situation. Nevertheless, Asian nations are also trying to create a new broad framework of regional dialogue and cooperation, such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), because they became more concerned about common security issues.

Such a forum helps extend mutual confidence and prevent possible regional conflict. Moreover, it may even function as a dispute settlement body. But unfortunately, it can never replace the existing alliance, which works as a deterrent against others and which has as its object defense of its member nations in case of an emergency. In Europe, NATO is the sole effective multilateral military organization, while in the Asia-Pacific region, the U.S. military presence, which is indispensable for the stability of this part of the world, is mainly supported by the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty setup. These two simple and basic facts should always be considered when promoting security cooperation among Asian nations. In brief, the third important factor is that Western countries are trying to create broad partnerships with various nations, while maintaining the existing alliances.

Japan's Security Policy

1. The Comprehensive Security Policy

How should Japan form an ideal security policy under such international circumstances? It is evident that it is not possible to maintain peace by only praying for peace or by just advocating peace. As a matter of fact, Japan is contributing toward world peace by trying to be a perfect peace-loving nation and by refusing to become a military power, which may constitute a threat to other nations. However, Japan should not be content with this, because these efforts are not strong enough to prevent possible attack or restore peace once it is broken. In my opinion, Japan's security policy in a broad sense should be the product of overall efforts.

First, there is the effort to maintain political, economic, and social stability. The importance of securing internal stability is proved by the many disputes that broke out after the end of the Cold War. These disputes did not result from antagonism between nations, but they were mostly the result of religious, ethnic, or tribal confrontations that came to the fore following the collapse of the ruling system. The concept of "national toughness," which was once emphasized by Southeast Asian nations in their post-independence years, is also based on the same idea that internal stability is vital to national security.

Second, there is the diplomatic effort. Needless to say, Japan's diplomatic efforts considerably help ensure national security, secure stability in the Asia-Pacific region, and maintain world peace. The Japanese Government concentrates its diplomatic efforts on bilateral, regional, and multilateral consultations and negotiations, as well as on economic cooperation and humanitarian aid activities, in order to achieve various objects: promoting mutual understanding between Japan and other countries; preventing possible conflicts; settling ongoing regional disputes by conciliatory means; reorganizing and strengthening the United Nations and other international organizations; ensuring the stability of the international community and the prosperity of the world economy through economic cooperation; resolving global issues concerning the environment and populations; and building international confidence. Japan is making immeasurable contributions toward international peace and stability through diplomatic efforts.

Meanwhile, the UN peacekeeping operations, which gradually developed into an international practice after 1948, increased considerably with the frequent outbreaks of regional disputes after 1988. The duties of UN peacekeepers are no longer limited to truce supervision and patrol of demilitarized zones. UN peacekeeping operations are now carried out on an extensive scale, covering a wide range of fields, such as providing logistical support, acting as civil police, helping refugees return home, and supporting humanitarian aid activities. The UN peacekeeping operations were originally aimed at implementing regional peace from a neutral position, on the condition that a cease-fire agreement is first reached between the concerned parties and that the peacekeeping activities are approved by them. They have proved successful in maintaining international peace. A Swedish Army officer, who had wide experience as UN peacekeeper, said to me, "Military knowledge is indispensable to people participating in the UN peacekeeping operations, but UN peacekeepers should behave as diplomats rather than as military men." The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, which became the first peacekeeping operations in which Japan was actively engaged, is described as one of the most successful examples of UN peacekeeping operations in recent years. Meanwhile, what happened in Somalia, and what is happening in the former Yugoslavia, show that the new type of peacekeeping operations — involving limited use of armed force — which is stipulated in the United Nations Charter Chapter VII, is confronted with many difficulties. Thus, the United Nations is now inclined to go back to the traditional peacekeeping operations, which require the consensus of the concerned parties.

All of the above-mentioned efforts are efficient means to secure national security, as well as international peace. However, these means are not enough to completely prevent possible offensive attack or hostile actions threatening the peace of the world. This is why a security system is indispensable as a precaution against emergencies. A nation's security system is founded on its own defense capacity and on its alliances with other nations, through which its defensive strength is bolstered. First, a security system helps deter other nations from making war. Second, it functions as a self-defense system should the nation be attacked by others. Japan's security system is based on the Self-Defense Forces and the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty setup.

The Japanese Government should endeavor to maintain the security of the country, the security of the Asia-Pacific region, as well as world peace, through a combination of various means having specific effects. In this report, I will not give a full account of all available means, but I will focus on the three most important subjects: the role of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, the security of the Asia-Pacific region, and global security.

2. The Role of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty

(a) The Significance of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty to Japan's Security Policy

Before discussing the problem of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty in the context of the changes after the end of the Cold War, I would like to point out an important structural aspect of Japan's security policy and defense program. The point is that they are inseparably wedded to the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. Japan firmly maintains its triple nonnuclear principle of not making, not possessing, and not bringing in nuclear weapons. Japan is also a signatory power to the NPT. Japan will never change this position. Meanwhile, the Far-Eastern region, to which Japan also belongs, has a lot of unstable factors. Moreover, many of them are deeply influenced by the attitude of the nuclear nations. Under such circumstances, the inhibitive power of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty setup, including the U.S. nuclear deterrent, is indispensable to Japan's national security. We should also fully recognize that Japan's Self-Defense Forces and the U.S. Armed Forces complement each other. The equipment and the organization of the Self-Defense Forces are decided in light of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty setup. Japan's defense capacity alone is not sufficient to cope with every conceivable situation. When we discuss the significance of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty setup in the post-Cold War era, we should never forget that the Security Treaty is structurally implicated in Japan's security system.

(b) The Significance of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty in the Post-Cold War Era

What do people strongly expect from the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty when the international environment is changing rapidly following the end of the Cold War? People expect the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty setup to be a base for promoting wider cooperation between Japan and the United States for the sake of peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. It is widely recognized that the U.S. military presence is indispensable for the security of the Asia-Pacific region. The U.S. presence in this part of the world is mostly supported by the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty setup.

Therefore, it is indispensable to make the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty setup more efficient and more practical in order to ensure the peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region. Japan keeps in close contact with the United States by carrying on bilateral consultations to this end. Moreover, Japan also works in close cooperation with the United States to deal with other security issues, such as the North Korean nuclear problem, the promotion of regional dialogue and cooperation through the ARF, and the longer-term issue of promoting security dialogue in Northeast Asia. Cooperation between Japan and the United States has been supported by the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty setup, which has worked satisfactorily. It is important to promote further cooperation between Japan and the United States in the field of security.

3. The Security of the Asia-Pacific Region

The Asia-Pacific region is composed of nations that have various historical and cultural backgrounds, as well as different political and economic systems. The stage of economic development also differs considerably among countries. As for security issues, they have mostly been concerned with bilateral issues and issues related to limited areas. As I mentioned above, the antagonistic situation was more complicated in the Asia-Pacific region than in Europe during the Cold War era. This is why the end of the Cold War had fewer repercussions in this part of the world. It also had different effects on each country. Under such conditions, what is necessary in order to maintain the security of this region is to create and develop a new framework of dialogue and cooperation between respective nations or among multiple nations of a certain region, while maintaining the existing bilateral alliances, including the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.

Meanwhile, one recent characteristic of the Asia-Pacific nations is that they gradually became interested in security issues related to the whole Asia-Pacific region. This is why it became possible to promote dialogue and cooperation throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The ARF was formed last year to this end. The germ of regional dialogue and cooperation should be developed carefully, without ignoring the structural factor that the Asia-Pacific region is governed by various geopolitical conditions.

To sum up, Japan's basic security policy, which aims to maintain the overall security of the Asia-Pacific region, should be diversified as follows.

First, as I mentioned above, Japan should firmly maintain the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty setup and actively promote cooperation with the United States, based on the view that the Security Treaty is indispensable for the safety of the Asia-Pacific region.

Second, Japan should promote the establishment of a smaller framework of regional cooperation. At the moment, such a framework is mostly needed in the Northeast Asian area and the South China Sea area. Japan should start by creating a new environment under which all nations having direct interests in these areas are able to talk out the points at issue.

As for the security in Northeast Asia, efforts have been made since 1993 through a forum, called "Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue." The main organizer of the forum is the Institute on Global Conflicts and Cooperation (IGCC) of the University of California at San Diego. Countries that are highly concerned with Northeast Asian security issues, such as Japan, the United States, South Korea, North Korea, China, and Russia, are invited to the forum. The subjects for discussion include the question of how to improve mutual confidence. Government representatives, including military officers, and participants from nongovernmental research organizations are requested to speak in the capacity of private persons, to bring about frank and candid exchanges of views. The first forum was held in San Diego, hosted by IGCC. The second forum was held in Tokyo, cosponsored by IGCC and Japan's National Institute for Research Advancement, and the third forum was organized in Moscow, cosponsored by IGCC, Japan's National Institute for Research Advancement, and the Science Academy of Russia.

In the past, though North Korean representatives had attended the preparatory meetings, they unfortunately never participated in the forum. This forum is extremely flexible and free. There are no rigid regulations. Any subject can be taken up for discussion and the participants can attend the forum in their private capacity. I really want North Korea to attend the next forum, which is expected to be held in Beijing around February 1996. Government and nongovernment representatives from five other nations, namely Japan, the United States, South Korea, China, and Russia, sincerely expect North Korea to join the forum. They are looking forward to exchanging views with North Korean representatives in a free and friendly atmosphere. Seats are always waiting for North Korean participants. This forum is not something against North Korea. This is a kind of fraternity whose study object, along with North Korean representatives, is means and ways to promote cooperation and maintain the peace and prosperity of Northeast Asia.

Meanwhile, the ARF held a high working-level meeting at the end of May in Brunei. This meeting was noteworthy because, for the first time, the South China Sea issue was taken up for multilateral discussion. This was an important development in the situation concerning the territorial dispute over the Spratly Islands. Moreover, with a view toward settlement of the Spratly Islands issue, ASEAN senior officials agreed on a long-range program to gradually achieve the following objects: promoting mutual confidence as a first step, developing preventive diplomacy as a second step, and improving the approach toward conflicts as a last step. The expression "improving the approach toward conflicts" is very vague, but it underlines that the ARF will function as a dispute settlement body in a certain way in the long run.

Third, Japan should also help develop the ARF as a venue for regional dialogue and cooperation. At the above-mentioned high working-level meeting of the ARF, ASEAN senior officials also agreed that each member nation should promote the following activities at the government level during the period between each ARF ministerial meeting: examining ways and means of implementing confidence building measures, as well as the possibility of participating in UN peacekeeping operations; preparing reports on how to improve dialogue over regional security concerns, as well as documents on the national defense policy for presentation at the ARF ministerial meeting; promoting exchange programs at the military academy level; and urging non-member nations of the UN Armaments Registration System to join it. Most of the measures adopted at the high working-level meeting were originally proposed by Japan.

4. Global Security

In this paragraph, I would like to give my opinion on the following subjects: arms control and arms reduction, prevention of nuclear proliferation and total destruction of nuclear weapons, preventive diplomacy, and reinforcement of the United Nations.

(a) Arms Control and Arms Reduction

Several arms control and arms reduction agreements, such as the U.S.-Soviet START I, START II, and the Treaty of Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE), were concluded right before and after the end of the Cold War. Today, our primary duty is to make every effort to facilitate the strict implementation of these agreements. There will be no possibility of further arms control and arms reduction unless these agreements are implemented without fail. Efforts to facilitate their implementation should be made in two fields.

First, giving assistance to Russia is indispensable in order to enable Russia to maintain strict control over its nuclear weapons. It is particularly important to provide financial support to facilitate the dismantling of nuclear weapons, which is becoming a new drain on Russia's national treasury. The international community, including Japan, has indeed been giving active support to Russia to this end.

Second, political adjustment and coordination are also indispensable in order to preserve these arms control and arms reduction agreements amid the changes in the international situation after the end of the Cold War. For instance, Russia has begun to link the ratification of START II with the question of extending NATO. Russia is also asking for a partial amendment of the CFE, in view of the conflict in Chechnya.

(b) Prevention of Nuclear Proliferation and Total Destruction of Nuclear Weapons

Well before the end of the Cold War, the international community was already confronted with the problem of weapons of mass destruction and the spread of nuclear delivery systems. The dissemination of weapons of mass destruction quickly emerged as a matter of primary concern after the end of the Cold War, because of the outbreak of many regional conflicts, which were irrelevant to the U.S.-Soviet confrontation, and because of a decline in Russia's nuclear control capability. Basically, the spread of weapons of mass destruction results from regional conflicts. In other words, even if disarmament is carried out by nuclear nations, this will not automatically halt the spread of weapons of mass destruction. This is the essential point of the problem. There is no quick solution for checking the dissemination of weapons of mass destruction. Therefore, all nations should go to the heart of the problem and make concerted efforts to implement varied measures to check the spread of such weapons.

First, the indefinite extension and the universalization of the NPT are indispensable. Agreement on the indefinite extension was reached on May 11. Now, further efforts should me made to urge nonmember nations to sign the NPT.

Second, it is necessary to quickly reach new international agreements to prevent the development of weapons of mass destruction, such as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the treaty to prohibit the development of new fissionable materials for use in weapons.

Human history shows that each time a new powerful weapon was developed by a nation, it always spread to neighboring countries in the end. Guns, tanks, fighter planes, etc.— all these weapons disseminated quickly. The current problem of nuclear proliferation is fundamentally different from other problems the world was confronted with in the past, because nuclear proliferation may directly lead to total destruction of the world as we know it. As a matter of course, it is very important to continue making efforts to check the spread of nuclear weapons and prevent further nuclear buildup. At the same time, further efforts have to be made to accelerate dismantling of existing nuclear weapons. At the beginning, some signatory nations hesitated to support the proposal concerning the indefinite extension of the NPT, while some others clearly opposed it. Behind this negative attitude was their dissatisfaction because nuclear powers were making little progress in reducing their nuclear weapons. Article VI of the NPT stipulates that signatory nations should negotiate ways and means to stop the nuclear armaments race; to effectively reduce nuclear weapons; and to achieve complete nuclear disarmament. The international community should never forget that the NPT also includes stipulations on nuclear disarmament, in addition to stipulations on nuclear nonproliferation.

Japan introduced a resolution aimed at achieving the ultimate goal of total destruction of nuclear weapons at the UN General Assembly in September 1994. This resolution first met with opposition from some nuclear nations. However, it was adopted by an overwhelming majority in the end. The vote on the resolution was 163 to 0 in favor, with 8 abstentions. The ultimate goal of total destruction of nuclear weapons was also included in the newly adopted documents about the indefinite extension of the NPT. There is still a long and difficult way to go toward total destruction of nuclear weapons. The international community should persevere in its efforts to attain this goal. The alleged development of nuclear weapons by North Korea affords a good illustration of the current problem concerning nuclear proliferation. The North Korean issue has an important bearing on Japan's national security, as well as on the security of Northeast Asia. At the same time, this is also a matter of global concern. Japan, the United States, and South Korea are currently working together to bring about a peaceful settlement of the issue.

(c) Preventive Diplomacy

As I mentioned above, diplomacy represents an important part of the comprehensive security policy. Needless to say, it is very important to seek peaceful settlement of disputes through negotiations and international dispute settlement bodies. But what is more desirable is to prevent disputes from occurring. Some nations are stressing the need for establishing an early warning system within the United Nations, in a bid to spot and remove the seeds of discord at an early stage.

Meanwhile, every nation is also trying to promote preventive diplomacy. The most striking example of preventive diplomacy is the recent international efforts to prevent aggravation of the situation in the FYROM. This Balkan country was fortunate enough to gain its independence from the former Yugoslavia without bloodshed. But, seen from a viewpoint of national security, FYROM, which is bordered by Serbia-Montenegro, Albania, Bulgaria, and Greece, is a very fragile nation. It also has many Albanian inhabitants, which form a minority ethnic group. Moreover, it is the poorest economically among the nations that became independent from the former Yugoslavia. Under such circumstances, once something happens in FYROM, it will inevitably develop into a serious situation. In an effort to prevent the outbreak of a dispute in this area, UN peacekeepers were dispatched to FYROM. This operation, called UN Preventive Deployment, is the first preventive peacekeeping activity in UN history. At the moment, it is producing the intended effect.

Meanwhile, the OSCE also dispatched a civilian mission to FYROM, in a bid to prevent the spread of regional disputes. The members of the so-called OSCE Spillover Mission were entrusted with the task of going around the country to inspect political, social, and human rights conditions, and to spot the seeds of discord. The mission also includes Japanese participation. Ms. Chikako Taya, Tokyo district public prosecutor, is currently fulfilling her duties in FYROM as the third Japanese person to join the mission. As it is necessary to help develop FYROM's national economy to prevent possible disputes, Japan is practicing its own preventive diplomacy, by providing economic assistance, including grants, to FYROM. In an effort to maintain regional stability, Japan is also giving economic assistance to Albania.

5. Reinforcement of the United Nations

The United Nations is the only universal organization in the world that holds itself responsible for world peace and global security. The UN Security Council is the main organ that assumes the responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. Sometimes, the General Assembly and several other organs, such as the Economic and Social Council, are also directly connected with security matters. In any case, these organs always have indirect bearings on security, because their duty is to help pave the way for international peace and security.

The Security Council remained almost paralyzed during the Cold War era, because of the unceasing use of the veto right by its permanent members, including the United States and the Soviet Union. The end of the Cold War enabled the Security Council to function properly. Many resolutions were adopted by the Security Council after the end of the Cold War, including resolution 678, which approved the use of armed force against Iraq by means of U.S.-led multinational forces in 1990. Only five resolutions were killed by a permanent member's veto during the period from 1990 till June 1995. There is a marked decline in the use of the veto right.

The end of the Cold War brought on such a favorable change to the United Nations. At the same time, the United Nations is now faced with many internal problems, which need to be settled quickly in order to strengthen the 50-year-old organization. The United Nations included only 51 countries when it was formed in 1945. The Security Council was composed of five permanent members, namely the principal victorious nations of World War II, and six nonpermanent members, which were elected every two years from each part of the world. The number of nonpermanent members was increased to 10 nations in 1965. Since then, no other revision has been made concerning the membership of the Security Council.

A total of 185 nations have joined the United Nations up to now. Two defeated nations of World War II, namely Japan and Germany, gradually came to exert global influence during the past 50 years, while many developing countries gained their independence after the end of World War II. Some developing nations even acquired competent global power. Thus, it became necessary to reflect the opinion of the developing nations in the United Nations. There are also many problems in the way the Security Council is run. For instance, the geographical allotment of the 10 nonpermanent member seats is said to be unfair, while the deliberation process is said to be unclear. Bitter complaints are also heard against the veto right. Japan is eagerly participating in UN activities to reform the Security Council. With a view to the above-mentioned problems, Japan is proposing a number of specific measures to strengthen the United Nations. The United Nations should achieve self-reformation on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Japan has also made other proposals, such as improvement of the way the General Assembly is run, reorganization of the Economic and Social Council, promotion of administrative and financial reforms, abolition of the Trusteeship Council, and deletion of the enemy clause. Japan stresses the importance of implementing these reforms at every opportunity. The United Nations should also take proper action to get around financial difficulties. The UN peacekeeping operations' cost runs up to a huge sum of money, equivalent to about three times the amount of the UN general budget, because of the sudden increase in the number and the scale of peacekeeping activities. At the same time, the United Nations is suffering from a revenue shortfall, because several countries, such as the United States and Russia, have been letting their allotted dues fall into arrears for several years.

Reinforcement of the United Nations, more particularly of the UN Security Council, is indispensable for the establishment of a new global security system. The need for reorganizing the United Nations is widely recognized by the international community. This is why the reconsideration of major international organizations, including the United Nations, was placed high on the agenda at the recent G-7 Summit meeting in Halifax. As 50 years have passed since its foundation, it is of urgent necessity for the United Nations to carry out self-reform to become a new United Nations that is able to meet the needs of the international community in the 21st century.

Conclusion

In this report, I tried to explain what Japan's security policy should be in the post-Cold War era, by emphasizing the concept of comprehensive security, the role of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty setup, and what should be done to maintain the security of the Asia-Pacific region as well as the security of the world. In order to clarify the current situation, which Japan should cope with, I made an analysis of the main changes that occurred after the end of the Cold War. These were the change in relations between the United States and the Soviet Union, the change in the position held by Russia in the international community, the change in the role of the existing alliances, and the new tendency to build global partnerships.

As I mentioned above, Japan should make comprehensive efforts and adopt various means in order to maintain national security. In a multiporalized world of the post-Cold War era, Japan should no longer be content to just accept the existing international order as it is. It should no longer remain passive. It should no longer be reconciled to just taking care of matters it is asked to deal with. I think Japan should participate in the making of world peace in a more constructive and creative manner. Japan's postwar rehabilitation and prosperity could have never been realized without peace. This is the time for Japan to actively contribute toward world peace, by devoting all its energies.

Murayama's Reaction to Nuclear Test Criticized

OW2008112895 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 19 Aug 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] On the afternoon of 18 August, a day after China conducted an underground nuclear test, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama expressed his displeasure, saying China's action was "extremely regrettable." He made these remarks at Kinugawa hot spring resort in Tochigi Prefecture, his vacation site.

Nuclear disarmament is an important issue, and one on which the prime minister's comments can win public approval. "What the government should have done on 17 August is to release the prime minister's statement, which would have carried more weight than a statement from the chief cabinet secretary." Some members of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] regret the delay in publicizing his reaction.

This was China's second nuclear test this year. The first one humiliated the prime minister because it was carried out immediately after he had paid a visit to China in May. Murayama strongly demanded that China halt its nuclear testing and indicated his intention to cut Japan's free aid for the communist nation. Despite this, China carried out another nuclear test ignoring Tokyo's antinuclear calls.

In such circumstances, the prime minister should have reacted promptly. Commenting on the nuclear test, Murayama explained the delay in publicizing his response: "No confirmation of the nuclear test had been made when I received an earthquake observation report on yesterday morning. When it was confirmed in the afternoon, I directed the chief cabinet secretary to convey the Japanese Government's strong concern over the test."

The vacation was supposed to provide Murayama with a fresh start in dealing with the difficult tasks facing his administration, including economic recovery. His holiday was ruined, however, because his long-held faith in the disarmament principle was called into question, and because of criticism of his slow reaction.

"This must be a quite blow to him," a Murayama aide pointed out, and a majority in the political world would share this view.

Editorial Urges Protest Over PRC Nuclear Test

OW2008120395 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 19 Aug 95 Morning Edition p 2

["Editorial": "We Want To File Strong Protest Against China's Nuclear Test"]

[FBIS Translated Text] China has conducted the second nuclear test this year and this is extremely regrettable. An indefinite extension of the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) was decided only in May. A decision was made at the conference to extend the NPT so that the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) can be concluded next year. In addition, agreement was reached at the conference that the nuclear powers would curtail their nuclear tests until the CTBT was concluded. China has conducted its second nuclear test this year amid the increasing call of people around the world for the abolition of nuclear weapons in this historical year that marks the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

On its nuclear tests, China has said: "We will stop our nuclear tests after the CTBT is put into effect. We have conducted the nuclear tests for our own self-defense and they are not intended to threaten other nations."

The assertion that nuclear tests are permissible before the CTBT goes into effect breaks China's pledge to nonnuclear powers. We can only think that China's recent nuclear test and France's decision to resume its nuclear tests are the perversity of nuclear powers.

China says it conducted the nuclear test for its self-defense and it was not intended to threaten other nations. We say such an assertion sounds too self-righteous.

Whether or not other nations feel threatened by the nuclear tests is not a matter for China to judge, but a matter for its neighboring nations to judge. There is no nation in the world that has publicly announced its possession of nuclear weapons is for the intention of invading other nations. The abolition of nuclear weapons is needed for mankind to build a healthier world in the 21st century.

In negotiations on the CTBT, China said its nuclear tests should be approved for peaceful purposes, such as civil engineering works. Such an assertion makes no sense. We have no choice but to doubt the perception by Chinese leadership of the world peace and nuclear.

It is only to be expected that China's recent nuclear test has come in for worldwide criticism. At the disarmament conference held in Geneva to discuss ways to promote negotiations to conclude the CTBT, one delegate after another criticized China. The United States has expressed concern that "China's recent nuclear test will delay negotiations on the CTBT." Australia and New Zealand, which have strongly protested over France's decision to resume nuclear tests, have expressed their strong anger at China's nuclear test.

Japan is the only nation in the world that has been the target of atomic bombs. Japan has physically experienced the tragedy brought about by nuclear weapons. Japan should make serious efforts to abolish nuclear weapons by publicizing its experiences. Japan should also stand firm against any nuclear testing. Despite this, Japan has taken a weak-kneed attitude toward France's resumption of nuclear tests.

On 17 August, Foreign Minister Kono protested to Chinese Ambassador to Japan Xu Dunxin over China's nuclear test and told the Chinese envoy Tokyo may further curtail aid to China. This means the Japanese Government will further cut aid to China.

Such protest action taken by the government is inadequate in light of role Japan should play and the wishes of the Japanese people for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Looking at Japan's aid to China in 1993, a total 9.9 billion yen was provided in grant-in-aid and a 189 billion yen was extended in loans. For Japan to express a strong protest, not only aid grants but also loans should be cut back.

On the question of loans, the government said: "Japan is politically committed to extending loans to China and it is impossible for us to cut them."

China's nuclear test, however, can be interpreted as a violation of its pledge to the international community. There is no reason for Japan to see the loans as a sanctuary.

Energy-Saving Technology Support to PRC Agreed

OW1908005395 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 18 Aug 95 Morning Edition p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] The New Energy and Industrial Development Organization (NEDO, an organization affiliated with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry) announced on 17 August that it has signed a basic agreement with the Chinese Government regarding Japan providing energy-saving technology for Chinese steel and cement industries. Japan plans to furnish two types of technology: one in which residual heat from cement manufacturing plants is used to generate electricity, and the other in which steam generated by air conditioners used at steel mills is retrieved for recycling in the steel manufacturing process. NEDO plans to build the necessary facilities and train Chinese personnel over the next three years through FY97.

JAL, Thai Airways To Expand Joint Flights

OW1908035995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0028 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Aug. 19 KYODO — Japan Airlines and Thai Airways International have agreed to expand joint flights between Japan and Thailand to meet an expected rise in demand in the near future, a business daily said Saturday [19 August].

The two airlines plan a sevenfold increase in joint flights between the countries to 21 flights a week starting in November, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said.

They will add two new joint flights — one from Kansai international airport [Osaka] to Bangkok and one from Bangkok to Fukuoka. Two flights a day will be made available from Kansai international airport to Bangkok with the airlines integrating their once-daily flights.

Thai airways will increase from two to three its weekly flights from Fukuoka to Bangkok.

Three weekly flights from Nagoya to Bangkok will be increased to four.

The two airlines have also agreed to resume flights from Japan to India using the rights of Thai Airways as early as next summer, the paper said.

Moody's Bank Ratings Displease MOF, BOJ

OW2108115395 Tokyo KYODO in English 1056 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Aug. 21 KYODO — Japan's monetary authorities expressed displeasure Monday [21 August] with the low ratings given to Japanese banks by Moody's Investors Service, the U.S. credit rating agency.

"The ratings are in reflection of the lower profitability at Japanese banks, but we mustn't think of them as being absolute," said an official at the Banking Bureau of the Finance Ministry.

Another official at the ministry spoke more bluntly. "The ratings do not reflect the situation of Japanese financial institutions," he said.

Moody's announced the same day that no Japanese banks were assigned a top rating in the agency's new financial strength rating in view of their huge bad loans and low profitability.

With the exception of Shizuoka Bank which was rated B, the Japanese banks were given ratings of between C and E.

Nonetheless, in response to Moody's announcement, the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Japan are now considering ways to make emergency loans to overseas outlets of Japanese banks, informed sources said.

The authorities will offer dollar loans to the outlets using dollars held by Japan at central banks in foreign countries as well as yen loans based on collateral that the Japanese banks have at home.

The measures will be taken to prevent any threat to the stability of the international financial system. There is a danger that western banks will view Japanese banks as being virtually bankrupt if they become unable to procure funds and thus unable to repay debt.

The Finance Ministry and the Bank of Japan plan to outline these emergency financing measures to monetary authorities of foreign countries at the upcoming Bank for International Settlements (BIS) meeting of central bankers from the so-called G-10 group in September, the sources said.

OTC Stock Market 'Rapidly' Expanding

OW2108010195 Tokyo KYODO in English 2358 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Aug. 21 KYODO — The over-the-counter (OTC) stock market is expanding rapidly, with the number of companies which register their stock for OTC trading expected to reach about 130 this year, compared with last year's 107, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said Monday [21 August].

The total number of OTC companies will exceed 1,000 in 1998 if the registrations continue at the present pace, the business daily said, and in around 2000, the number may surpass that of first-section firms on the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE), currently at 1,239.

The number of OTC firms now stands at 642.

Since the beginning of this year, 72 companies have gone public, and 50 to 60 more companies are likely to register their shares for OTC trading for the rest of the year unless the stock market as a whole plunges into a tailspin, the daily said.

The fast growth of the OTC market — one company joining every two days — is due in part to the fact that some OTC firms prefer to stay in the minor market even after they have met the requirements for listing on the TSE.

This stems from easier regulations on the OTC market, which make it possible starting in January for OTC firms to issue bonds with warrants to purchase new shares as a way of raising funds, the daily said.

Impact of Product Liability Law Discussed

952A0618A Tokyo NIKKEI BUSINESS in Japanese 19 Jun 95 pp 117-122

[FBIS Translated Text]

Japanese Corporations Build Breakwaters Against Product Liability

The Japan association of bicycle manufacturers is phasing out the bike inspections that it has traditionally provided at nationwide schools at no charge. The association inspected 2.5 million bikes in 1993 and 1.5 million in 1994, down from a peak of over 3 million. It will discontinue the inspections because it determined that the service, although free, could make the association liable in bike accidents, according to association Chairman Ryozo Tsutsumi. In other words, bike manufacturers are better off not providing this superfluous service, so they have left the inspections up to bike owners.

According to the product liability law that went into effect on July 1 in Japan, a manufacturer is obligated to pay damages if a defect in its product causes an individual to sustain injury or property loss. Led by the Federation of Economic Organizations, known as the Keidanren, Japanese corporations have opposed the establishment of a product liability law for many years. This reflects their fear of a multitude of product liability suits, a reality in the United States, where many companies have been left gasping under the financial strain. Corporate Japan is now busy forming policies to cope with the new product liability law.

In late April, just over two months before the product liability law went into effect, Takeyuki Okaya was still fielding an endless stream of product liability inquiries from housing equipment manufacturers and housing industry associations. Mr. Okaya is the director of the product liability center for housing components at Better Living, a public foundation. Many manufacturers of bathtub units, for example, questioned the wisdom of including the following statement in their manuals: "Do not use a dryer while bathing due to the risk of electrical shock." Mr. Okaya advised the following: "The risk of electrical shock is widely known. It is not related to the product liability of a bathtub. Instead, a case could be brought forward with another product if the warning is written with the dryer."

Subcontractors' Liability for Damages Expands

Japanese companies are rushing to set up new systems for monitoring product safety in response to the product liability law. Toshiba Corporation implemented such a system in May, forming a committee of four to five persons to check quality guarantees at factories and operations divisions. Toshiba's safety-monitoring system is unique in that its investigative committee consists of individuals from business divisions that are not monitored, such as the legal and consumer affairs departments. "Quality control makes many employees nervous, mainly because their work is checked by a third party on both a regular and unannounced basis," says Kazuo Ishiyama, the general manager of Toshiba's center for guaranteeing parts quality for production and technology promotion.

Major corporations' product-liability measures have started to exert a large impact on small businesses such as subcontractors and affiliates. Many parent companies have revised their basic trading contracts and quality control agreements with subcontractors. For example, some have added stipulations related to so-called expanded damages whereby the subcontractor is liable for damages if a third party suffers injury as a result of an accident that is traced to the subcontractor.

However, the issue of expanded damages is not all that simple. In most cases, it is not clear whether the liability lies with the parent company or the subcontractor, notes Yuzo Tsuchihashi, a small business adviser with the Japan subcontractors association. This is because the parent company often exchanges design blueprints with its subcontractors several times. Mr. Tsuchihashi is concerned that the liability will shift to subcontractors because they have less negotiating power than major corporations.

Fujitsu Ltd., which does business with 114 affiliates, also plans to revise its basic trading contracts. The company is currently investigating ways to incorporate an expanded damages clause in its contracts, according to Shunji Shinohara, the general manager of Fujitsu's legal affairs department.

Nihon Ryutsu Sangyo, an Osaka co-op of midsized supermarkets, is exchanging "memos" related to product liability with companies to which the production of private brands has been consigned and with other affiliates. Its aim is to clarify specific accident responses and the liability burden. The co-op is using memos for now because they require less time and effort than contract adjustments.

Some major food processors are reportedly compelling their subcontractors to sign a contract whereby the subcontractor agrees to compensate the parent company for lost profits in addition to paying damages to victims if the subcontractor is responsible for food poisoning.

Whether or not "subcontractor bullying" is included in the picture, the relations between parent companies and their subcontractors are deteriorating. Minolta Company's general manager of quality promotion, Haruo Abe, says that small businesses also need to be aware of product liability. Companies that are not covered by product liability insurance will have a hard time finding business associates, he notes.

The Japan auto chemicals association, a group of 93 manufacturers of engine oil and other chemical products used in automobiles, hired a young lawyer who specializes in product liability last January. Although the association hired the lawyer as an adviser, the lawyer actually acts as a joint adviser to the 32 member firms that expressed an interest in his services.

The majority of the association's members are small businesses. These companies are concerned about the impact of the new product liability law, but not to the extent that they would seek legal advice on their own. Furthermore, they do not have the surplus funds to pay for legal services. Under the association's legal advisory system, each company pays just 50,000 yen per year for legal advice on product liability. If a member receives a product liability complaint, it can easily obtain advice from the association's lawyer by telephone or fax. Small businesses typically have little experience dealing with lawyers, a trait that the association hopes to change through its legal advisory system, according to the association's senior managing director, Eiji Shioya.

Will Rulings in Favor of Plaintiffs Remain Rare?

The biggest fear of corporations that are rushing to devise product liability countermeasures is, needless to say, a product liability suit. In past lawsuits involving a manufactured product, the plaintiff had to establish the cause and effect relationship between the product defect and accident and prove that the manufacturer was negligent in generating the defect. Under the new product liability law, however, the plaintiff only has to prove the existence of a defect.

A suit alleging that a faulty word processor caused a fire is currently being tried in Tokyo District Court. The case has captured the attention of the consumer electronics industry. The plaintiff is asking for 100 million yen in damages to compensate for the loss of his office and part of his home. The suit names three manufacturers: Sanyo Electric Co., which supplied the word processor through an original-equipment-manufacturing agreement; Minolta, which sold the unit;

and the cord manufacturer. The case revolves around the proof of a defect.

Last year, the court ruled in favor of the plaintiff in a product liability case involving Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. The plaintiff filed a suit against Matsushita for manufacturing a defective television that started a fire. The court ruled that "a television that caught on fire during rational use is defective." If the court determines that the fire that erupted from the word processor is an immediate defect, it will be much easier for the plaintiff to prove the existence of a defect. The Sanyo case will probably become a leading case that establishes a trend, following the Matsushita precedent, according to Tadashi Nakamura, a lawyer for the plaintiff's side.

The plaintiff will rarely win in a product liability case if strict proof of a defect is required. This is because in many cases, the product that triggered the accident has been burned or otherwise destroyed. Even if the product remains to be used as evidence, it is extremely difficult to verify the existence of a defect in a product with a technologically advanced structure.

A suit against Mitsubishi Motors Corp. has dragged on for four years in Otsu District Court in Shiga Prefecture. Both sides are caught in a war of words over the proof of a defect in Mitsubishi's Pajero passenger car. The plaintiff alleges that the front left wheel of the car suddenly came off while he was driving 40 kilometers per hour, sending the car careening into a telephone pole. The plaintiff, who had owned the car for just over seven months, blames the accident on one missing part. He is asking for just over 5 million yen in damages.

Mitsubishi Motors refutes the plaintiff's claims. It attributes the crash to driver error, and says that the wheel fell off of the car due to the force of the collision, according to the automaker's attorney, Yasushi Nishina. As material evidence, the plaintiff's side has photographs of the accident scene, taken by the plaintiff's parents immediately after the accident, the car itself and parts. Despite this unusual preponderance of material evidence, it would be extraordinary if the plaintiff's side could poke holes in the refuting arguments presented by a host of technological experts for the manufacturer's side, says Mie Asaoka, a lawyer for the plaintiff's side.

There is a consensus among legal experts that the passage of the product liability law will not trigger a sharp increase in product liability suits. The number of lawyers relative to overall population in Japan is just 1/25 the comparative figure for the United States. A lawsuit in Japan requires a substantial investment of time and money. Furthermore, the vast majority of Japanese prefer to avoid court affairs. There have reportedly been 200-odd product-liability suits filed in Japan to date. The plaintiff has won in just a handful of these cases. In contrast, the plaintiff is said to have a 30 percent chance of winning in a medical malpractice suit, 2,000 of which are currently being tried in Japan. The number of malpractice suits has risen due to the growing willingness of doctors to testify on the plaintiff's behalf. In the area of product liability, there are few lawyers who are willing to help financially-strapped plaintiffs and a lack of technological experts who are willing to corroborate the plaintiff's testimony. Product-liability cases will not increase in the future unless there is a move to establish product-liability legal associations that help consumers, according to Manabu Hayashida, an assistant professor at Toyo University.

Neutrality of Dispute Resolution Bodies Vital

Even if the number of product liability suits does not skyrocket as a result of the new law, the number of claims will increase due to the growing consumer awareness of the issue.

Many leading manufacturers are establishing dispute resolution bodies in an effort to cope with product liability. A dispute resolution body is staffed by unbiased members, such as academics, who handle the claims and complaints of plaintiffs. If the complaint cannot be settled through reciprocal negotiations with the manufacturer, the dispute resolution body will arbitrate the matter. Since the start of 1995, more than 10 groups have announced themselves as dispute resolution bodies.

Critics allege that most dispute resolution bodies are just a front for the manufacturer, disguised under a different name. In other words, a dispute resolution body assumes the guise of a third party, but actually functions as a breakwater for the manufacturer so that it does not have to go to court. Thus, a dispute resolution body's effectiveness depends on the degree to which it maintains its neutrality.

In response, dispute resolution bodies are proclaiming their "neutrality." The automobile industry recently created the consulting center for auto product liability as a dispute resolution body. Masaki Sano, the managing director of the center, insists that staff members may hail from auto manufacturers, but they have completely forgotten their past ties.

There is a strong perception that a claim stems from the consumer's trust in the manufacturer. In the Mitsubishi Motors Pajero suit, for example, the plaintiff has already racked up over 10 million yen in legal fees, which exceeds the amount of damages that he is asking. However, "it is an issue of trust, not money. We will not drop the suit, even if it takes 10 years to settle," says Mr. Nishina.

Similarly, an individual filed a suit against Bridgestone Cycle (Ageo, Saitama Prefecture) in Nagoya District Court after reciprocal negotiations broke down over "trust in the manufacturer." The individual was seriously injured when the front wheel of his Bridgestone mountain bike suddenly snapped off while he was riding it. In this particular bike model, the front wheel can be easily removed by pushing a lever attached to the front frame. The plaintiff has also named the parts manufacturer, Shimano Inc., in the suit. The manufacturers initially made a sincere effort to settle with the accident victim instead of going to court, according to Hideki Sugiura, a lawyer for the plaintiff's side. The victim decided to file a suit because Bridgestone refused to meet his demand that the accident be publicized to safeguard against a recurrence.

When asked in court to report the generation rate for defects in the company's product, Japanese managers will answer "zero" without hesitation, according to Hitoshi Morikawa, the director of the product liability information center for Nippon Fire & Marine Insurance Co. Mr. Morikawa has also represented Japanese companies involved in product liability suits in the United States. Japanese companies have the utmost confidence and trust in the safety of their products, so they refuse to recognize the existence of defects. The new product-liability law, however, will break down this "myth of infallibility."

Yomeishu Seizo Reorganizes To Promote Company-Wide Awareness of Consumer Information

Yomeishu Seizo Co., a manufacturer of herbal health tonics, established in July a department to handle customer inquiries in conjunction with the implementation of the product-liability law. Its public relations department was responsible for customer inquiries previously. The company decided to set up a separate customer relations department in a move to clarify its organizational structure. Yomeishu receives about 20,000 customer inquiries and complaints by telephone and in letters each year. The new customer relations department sorts the information that it collects into 175 divisions, such as claims and inquiries about various product functions, and distributes the information to other departments as needed.

Many Japanese companies are concerned that their customer claims and inquiries will increase as a result of the new product-liability law. In a survey of corporate opinion regarding the product-liability law, conducted by the Marine & Fire Insurance Association of Japan, Inc. last October, the most frequent answer to the question "Which business areas will be impacted by the product-liability law?" was "our response to customer complaints."

However, should companies really take a negative view of an increase in customer complaints? Takashi Susukida, the managing director of the Association of Consumer Affairs Professionals (ACAP), points out that "companies must anticipate and consistently respond to customer claims. Most companies have assigned competent staff to a customer relations department in an effort to handle customer complaints as smoothly as possible to date. In the future, however, an organization-wide response will be required."

"Product claims" are important to corporations for two reasons. First, claims provide valuable information on ways to improve product quality. Second, if a defective product is discovered through a claim, the company can quickly take steps to correct the defect on the basis of that information. Yomeishu Seizo reportedly established a consumer relations department because its public relations department appealed to management to "make the most of consumer information in the company's products and management style."

Thus, more and more companies are striving to make better use of information that they gather from consumers.

Sharp Sees Opportunity in Product-Liability Law

Electronic products are required to meet detailed safety standards under Japanese law, but Sharp Corp. went a step further in 1990 and created its own, tougher guidelines for technological safety. Under Sharp's product safety system, each business division establishes technological standards for 76 products, such as televisions and refrigerators. The company reviews its safety guidelines every year, so that it is currently compiling the fifth edition. In creating its safety guidelines, Sharp relies on information on product repairs and maintenance, as reported by Sharp service companies, and about 500,000 product inquiries and claims received from customers.

Sharp keeps track of information on parts that are replaced by the service department in a computer system known as its "market-quality information system." It uses this data to determine if its quality standards should be adjusted and to spot a rising frequency of certain part replacements. This enables the company to correct a technological problem before the product malfunctions. Kenji Hajika, the general manager of Sharp's product reliability division, notes that Sharp has always paid close attention to quality control. In fact, the company views the product-liability law as an opportunity to conduct an exhaustive, company-wide review of quality control again, he says.

Sanyo Electric Co. experienced a major loss of consumer confidence following a 1985 incident in which several owners of one of its kerosene fan heater models died from carbon monoxide poisoning. The service department knew of the product defect, but the information failed to reach top management. Consequently, Sanyo was slow to recall the heater, which exacerbated the damage.

Learning from its mistake, Sanyo created "stipulations for the management of quality claims" and introduced a computerized "quality information system" in late 1986. Its aim is to make every employee aware of the importance of quality-related customer claims by making such information available to all departments.

When one of the 112 Sanyo service stores throughout Japan receives a claim, the store records detailed information on the claim in a "quality claim report." It forwards this report to Sanyo's head office, where staff input the information in the company's computer system. The quality claim report also serves as the service company's bill for providing repair and maintenance to Sanyo's sales division, a measure to ensure that the service company does not forget to write down a claim.

In general, a company's product design and manufacturing divisions do not want negative feedback on products to become common knowledge throughout the company. In the worst case scenario, the negative information will be hushed up. Consequently, it is vital that a neutral post within the company be responsible for collecting and managing information on customer claims, according to Isao Matsukura, the general manager of Sanyo's customer satisfaction department.

Mr. Matsukura adds that "we were reluctant to disclose to the public the fact that we collect information on quality claims because of our concern that consumers would misinterpret our action as proof that our products are often defective. Perhaps we need to reconsider our point of view."

Kao's Move To Display Product Warnings on Package Front a Success

Kao Corp., a leading manufacturer of personal-care and household products, has created a database of product complaints and consumer opinions in its "New Eco-System." The company has placed over 300 terminals that are linked to the computer system in factories, business departments, and sales affiliates so that any employee can search the database. At Kao's 10 consumer consultation centers throughout Japan, as many as 400 complaints and inquiries are logged on a busy day. Staff members at the company's life sciences research institute enter this information into the New Eco-System, putting a flag by data on product quality that they deem is important. This flagged information is then publicized at the next morning's "nationwide telephone meeting" at 8:30 AM to check that a similar claim has not been filed. This setup leads to improvements in existing products and the development of new products.

Kao also incorporates consumer information in its method of product display. It is not unusual for the product image to include negative information. Take Kao's "Spray Keeping" aerosol-spray powder for example. Until September 1993, a warning stating that the pressurized container may explode if placed near a heater was printed on the back of the container. In response to consumer calls for a clearer display of this warning, however, Kao's life sciences institute proposed that the warning also appear on the front of the container. Kao's sales department initially objected to this proposal because of concerns over a drop in sales. As it turned out, the sales department's worries were unfounded because the front-side display had the opposite effect of increasing the public's confidence in Kao's products, according to Bunpachi Masuda, the director of Kao's life sciences institute.

How should consumer information be collected and applied in products? Companies as well as national government and municipal bodies are mulling over this question.

How Does Government Use Consumer Information?

The technology and safety division of the Ministry of Transport's vehicle traffic bureau is in charge of automobile recalls. The division established a user activities department in 1991, which helps regional transportation bureaus collect consumer complaints and opinions on cars and Japan's car inspection system. The department receives 3,000 to 3,500 inquiries each year. Of this number, less than 10% comprise quality-related complaints, such as structural car problems and bad parts. The Transport Ministry enters this important information in a database of auto recall information known as the recall information search system (RISS). The data stored in RISS is not made public because it is intended for the government's use only, according to the department.

If the Transport Ministry feels that a quality claim stems from an engineering problem, it will ask the manufacturer to submit an investigative report. This investigation can reportedly lead to a recall. However, the ministry does not reveal the details of these studies or the frequency of a particular claim to car owners.

In fiscal 1993, the Transport Ministry collected data on 411 auto product accidents from consumers, automakers and auto industry associations. It is still gathering data for fiscal 1994, but expects the number to increase to about 650, according to the ministry's consumer and economic affairs department. Of these accidents, about 30 percent are attributable to consumer misuse and 28.7 percent to design and production defects, the department says.

In this situation, the Transport Ministry instructs the concerned sections within the ministry (such as the electronic machinery section if the accident involves an electronic product) and manufacturers that have been singled out in an investigation to take "measures to prevent a recurrence" of the accident. In fiscal 1993, for example, there were five cases in which the ministry ordered the auto manufacturer to "suspend production and imports" and 27 cases in which it ordered the manufacturer to implement "safety inspections such as the replacement of the product or parts."

Although government bodies release general information on the total number of accidents or defects for many products, they do not publicize specific information, such as the name of the manufacturer of the defective product, in general. The government attributes this policy to its desire to protect the privacy of manufacturers, encourage manufacturers to report negative data and avoid unnecessary public misunderstandings of the information.

Thus, the government advises manufacturers on product safety on the basis of consumer information that it gathers, and accordingly, keeps consumers safe. However, consumers cannot check a product's reliability on their own due to the lack of accessible information. The Transport Ministry says that "information on product defects is public property," yet it keeps the information to itself for use in administrative guidance.

Consumers Cannot Be Held Accountable for Product Use Without Further Information on Product Reliability

The product liability law not only clarifies the liability of companies, but also requires consumers to practice self-responsibility as product users. Consumers are being asked to take more responsibility in choosing which products to use because government monitoring has become less stringent amidst the easing of regulations. The important point here is whether or not product users have access to information that enables them to practice self-responsibility.

Most dispute resolution bodies are reluctant to disclose information on disputes that have been brought forth. The National Living Center is about the only dispute resolution body that publishes the names of manufacturers involved in disputes that it has handled and other case information. Also, the National Living Center and the Housing Products Product Liability Center are about the only organizations that will allow the plaintiff to use their reference materials as evidence if the arbitration ends without a settlement and the dispute is taken to court.

Masato Nakamura, a lawyer who frequently represents plaintiffs in product liability litigation, says that consumers often have no knowledge of cases involving product defects simply because the manufacturers hush up the information. He is concerned that dispute resolution bodies will only release the information that they acquire on product defects to manufacturers because they were established by industries in the first place. Consequently, the activities of dispute resolution bodies must be monitored closely in the future, he asserts.

Attorney Mikio Sekine questions whether Japan's product liability law can function effectively despite the insufficient disclosure of data by the Japanese Government and corporations. Consequently, he helped form a Kansai liaison office to promote an information disclosure law to support the product liability law in late June. He hopes that a movement to promote greater disclosure will spread throughout Japan in the future. If corporate Japan and the Japanese Government continue to guard their information on product defects, the product-liability law may become a widely recognized farce.

DA Head on Disarmament, Defense Buildup

OW1908094995 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN in Japanese 18 Aug 95 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with new Defense Agency [DA] Director General Seishiro Eto by TOKYO SHIMBUN reporter Hirohito Saito; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Saito] What did the prime minister instruct you to do when you took the office?

[Eto] He expressed the hope that I would carry out my duties while at the same time giving a full consideration to the three-party agreement (on the promotion of disarmament). He also asked me to keep a close watch on major trends in international politics and the world security.

[Saito] What is your own view on disarmament and the buildup of Japan's defense capability?

[Eto] I intend to deal with disarmament in line with the general perception of Japan's exclusively defensive armed forces and after carefully studying global security and the trend toward military buildup around the world. I want to build the foundation of our nation's defense capability while, at the same time, comparing it to the armaments of neighboring Asian nations. I am concerned that uncertain and unstable factors have been growing in Russia. I cannot definitely say that our nation will renounce its strategy of attaching importance to the north. If the buildup of our entire defense capability needs to be reviewed, then I will review it.

[Saito] The ruling Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] has pronounced next year as the year to start disarmament. The Murayama cabinet also will announce plans to push for disarmament. What is your comment?

[Eto] The SDPJ has demanded that a ceiling figure be set for the defense budget request for fiscal 1997 as one of the measures to promote disarmament. It is hard to understand the basis for calculating this figure. I want to have a full exchange of views with policymakers in the SDPJ. Some have taken the view that defense spending for fiscal 1996 should be deferred, but Finance Law principles should not be broken.

[Saito] The Defense Agency [DA] will make its 1996 budget request without a medium-term plan for the buildup of defense capability that could be the basis for the request. What is your view?

[Eto] That is an extension of the issue of how to build up our nation's defense capability. I intend to work to compile a perfect defense budget on the basis of established facts.

[Saito] How are you going to handle the issue of increasing the cost of maintaining U.S. Forces in Japan?

[Eto] Increasing the cost of maintaining U.S. Forces in Japan is an important issue that involves the foundation of our nation's security. I will deal firmly with the issue while coordinating with the Foreign Ministry in order to smooth the operation of meeting the cost. I will have to ask the United States to similarly keep its own spending operating smoothly.

Poll Shows Demand for Better Disaster Prevention

OW2008081995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0805 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Aug. 20 KYODO — The Jan. 17 great Hanshin earthquake has resulted in a three-fold rise in the number of Japanese demanding better measures to deal with and prevent disasters, according to a nationwide poll released Sunday [20 August] by the prime minister's office.

The office said its survey found that 20.4 percent of respondents want the government to take more antidisaster measures, up from only 7.2 percent a year ago.

Additionally, 26.4 percent are calling for the government to fight crime in the wake of the March 20 sarin gas attack on Tokyo subways and a series of gun-related crimes, according to the poll.

In a multiple-choice question, 54.8 percent of respondents demanded improved medical, welfare and pension programs, 46.2 percent wanted effective steps taken to stimulate the economy, and 43.9 percent called for lighter tax burdens.

But despite their concerns, the poll also showed that a record 72.7 percent of respondents are satisfied with their lives, up 7.4 percent from a year ago, and only 24.6 percent are unhappy, down 6.4 percent from the 1994 poll, according to the government survey.

Over 90 percent of the total respondents said they belong to the nation's middle class, the office said.

The office polled 10,000 adults in may, of whom 73.5 percent responded.

Ministries Budget Requests To Rise 11 Percent

OW1808135395 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 18 Aug 95 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Total requests from government ministries and agencies for the FY96 general account budget, which are set to expire at the end of August, are expected to be 79 trillion yen, an increase of 11 percent from the initial FY95 general account budget. The general account budget is expected to grow at a double digit rate for the first time in six years. The increase in the FY96 general account budget is affected largely by a sharp rise in mandatory expenditures like repayments for government bonds. General expenditures, the adjustment of which is left at the policy discretion, are expected to grow only 4.2 percent. With the gap between revenues including tax revenues and expenditures expected to widen, the Finance Ministry is under pressure to give consideration to invigorating the sagging economy. The Finance Ministry is being forced to compile the FY96 budget under difficult circumstances.

The general account budget consists of general expenditures, the repayments of government bonds, subsidies to local governments and project fund (1.3 trillion yen) from profits of the sale of stocks of the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT). The FY96 general account budget includes 566.13 billion yen for the repayments of government bonds.

The ceiling set for the general expenditures is 43.93 trillion yen, an increase of 4.2 percent from the initial FY95 budget which was decided by the criteria for budget requests. Three hundred billion yen is set to be spent for priority public works projects and 140 billion yen for upgrading the foundation of economic development and promoting academic research. Each government ministry and agency is expected to make maximum budgetary request within the scope of ceiling set for it.

With respect to repayments of government bonds, outstanding government bonds have grown. In a bid to secure financial resources to repay the government bonds, 3.1 trillion yen will be secured under the "fixed rate provision" that was deferred in the 1995 budget. Surplus of 670.6 billion yen, that was incurred in the 1994 settlement of accounts, will be incorporated in the 1996 budget. The surplus is expected to balloon to 17 trillion yen, up nearly 30 percent from 13.22 trillion yen in 1995. Local governments are likely to request 15.9 trillion yen in subsidies, up 20 percent from 13.254 trillion yen in 1995.

According to a "medterm financial outlook" compiled by the Finance Ministry, revenues for fiscal 1996 are expected to amount to 70.4 trillion, showing a shortfall of approximately 9 trillion yen in total budget requests.

Murayama Pledges To Reform SDPJ Party

OW2108055395 Tokyo KYODO in English
0541 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Aug. 21 KYODO — Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama pledged Monday [21 August] to transform his Social Democratic Party (SDP) into a new party that can assume power as opposed to only countering the two large conservative parties.

Murayama, concurrently head of the SDP, criticized remarks of some party officials that the party should unite the "third" forces to become a new party.

He rejected this terminology, which refers to the liberal forces as the third forces, because this expression implies that Japan will be ruled by a two-party system of the main ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party).

"My theory is that we should create another party that can assume power," the premier said in a speech at a meeting of the Japan Federation of Employers' Association (Nikkeiren) in Fujiyoshida, Yamanashi Prefecture, central Japan.

Murayama also said the planned new party should attract a number of voters who do not support any political party and who do not go to polling stations.

The SDP plans to transform itself into a new liberal party in an effort to regain public approval.

The LDP is the largest component in the tripartite ruling coalition with the SDP and new party Sakigake [Harbinger], a small LDP splinter group.

Business Leader Wants Murayama To Sustain Power

OW2108041195 Tokyo KYODO in English
0211 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Fujiyoshida, Japan, Aug. 21 KYODO — An influential business leader urged Monday [21 August] the continuation of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's administration for another two years, saying a frequent change of power would foster greater dependence of policy-makers on the bureaucracy.

Jiro Nemoto, president of the Japan Federation of Employers Associations (Nikkeiren), told a seminar of fellow business leaders here in Shizuoka Prefecture, central Japan, "I want him to sustain the current administration at least for another two years, just as the president of a business firm serves a term of such duration."

"(A frequent change) would nurture public distrust in the government, increase voters who do not back any political party, while leading foreign countries to take advantage of such a helpless condition, undermining national prestige," he said.

His comments come at a time when a race for the presidency of the Liberal Democratic Party, the biggest party in Murayama's three-party coalition, is fueling speculation the coalition government may break up, leading to an early general election.

As for a government response to Japan's ailing economy, Nemoto called on the coalition to "speedily compile and implement a (stimulative) action program now the three coalition parties have struck an agreement on most of the necessary prescriptions" on how to revive the anemic economy.

Hashimoto Declares LDP Presidential Candidacy

OW2108061195 Tokyo KYODO in English
0601 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Aug. 21 KYODO — International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on Monday [21 August] announced his candidacy for the September election for president of the primary ruling coalition bloc Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), throwing down the gauntlet to current LDP President Yohei Kono.

Hashimoto told Kono, who also serves as foreign minister, about his plan to run for the Sept. 22 election before announcing it in a press conference.

Earlier in the day, Hashimoto told reporters in front of his home in Tokyo's posh Roppongi District that he wants to battle for the LDP leadership with grace.

The outspoken minister said he decided to run after being shocked by the outcome of the July 23 House of Councillors election in which his party fared worse than expected.

"I realized that public trust has not yet been restored," he said.

Open discussions through the presidential race will show the Japanese people a way to change the LDP for the better, Hashimoto said.

Kono also plans to reveal his bid for a second two-year term during a meeting of party executives, but party sources said he will not publicly declare his bid for reelection until Saturday at the earliest, when he returns from a five-day trip to Thailand, Cambodia and Australia.

In announcing his candidacy for party presidency, Hashimoto presented a set of policy proposals for "restoring the confidence of the Japanese."

He pledged to seek a recovery of confidence in the economy as well as in politics and diplomacy, and in crisis management and safety maintenance.

Hashimoto also said he would attain a "renaissance of the LDP" to make the party worthy of the people's trust.

To that end, he proposed a more flexible organization, clean politics, complete eradication of maneuverings by factions and a closer relationship between the central and local party organizations.

Hashimoto's policy proposals also included a call for achieving in the next century stable economic growth without a large trade surplus or concern for unemployment.

It also advocated a more independent diplomacy, better crisis management, fundamental administrative reforms, a society where elderly citizens feel happy and an education system which helps students achieve their full potential as well as the pursuit of eternal world peace.

Mentions Poor Poll Results

*OW2108034895 Tokyo KYODO in English
0307 GMT 21 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Aug. 21 KYODO — International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Monday [21 August] he hopes to "cheer Japan up" by challenging for the presidency of the main ruling coalition partner Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) next month.

Hours before his scheduled news conference later in the day to declare his candidacy for the Sept. 22 LDP presidential race, Hashimoto told reporters in front of his home in Tokyo's posh Roppongi District that he wants to battle for the LDP leadership with good grace.

The outspoken minister said he has decided to run after being shocked by the outcome of the July 23 House of Councillors election in which his party fared worse than expected.

"I realized that public trust has not yet been restored," he said.

Open discussions through the presidential race will show the Japanese people a way to change the LDP for the better, Hashimoto said.

Incumbent LDP President Yohei Kono, who also serves as foreign minister, plans to reveal his bid for a second two-year term during a meeting of party executives after Hashimoto's announcement of his candidacy.

Hashimoto will use his 2 P.M. [0500 GMT] news conference to unveil a "policy vision" aimed at gaining support from national- level LDP lawmakers and party members across the country, party officials said.

Party sources said, however, that Kono will not publicly declare his bid for reelection until Saturday at the earliest, when he returns from a five-day trip to Thailand, Cambodia and Australia.

Ministry Sees No Disruption

*OW2108070595 Tokyo KYODO in English
0621 GMT 21 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Aug. 21 KYODO — Ryutaro Hashimoto's run for the head of his political party will not disrupt the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), which he heads, in its preparations for an upcoming Asia-Pacific summit, the top trade bureaucrat said Monday [21 August].

MITI Vice Minister Tomio Tsutsumi simply cited at a regular news conference comments Hashimoto made minutes earlier, in announcing his bid for Liberal

Democratic Party (LDP) chief, that preparations are continuing for November's summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

It remains undecided whether Hashimoto will attend a Sept. 9-10 meeting in Brunei of trade ministers from Japan and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Tsutsumi said.

The Japan-ASEAN meeting will overlap the official application date for the LDP presidency race, the voting for which is Sept. 22.

Tsutsumi noted that Hashimoto is set to go to Australia this weekend for cabinet-level meetings, where he can brief officials on Japan's ideas, as host of the Osaka summit, on steering the APEC summit toward realization of last year's APEC goal of region-wide free trade by 2020.

In Canberra, Hashimoto will represent Japan alongside his incumbent rival for the LDP race, Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, who goes to Australia after visits this week to Thailand and Cambodia.

Tsutsumi also said the Japan-U.S. auto accord, which averted U.S. trade sanctions by hours June 28, will be signed as early as Wednesday in Washington.

MITI officials privately expressed displeasure last week when the office of the U.S. Trade Representative released details of the yet- unsigned accord.

Some Miffed at Hashimoto's Bid

OW2108123495 Tokyo KYODO in English 1158 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Aug. 21 KYODO — Some bureaucrats at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) are publicly neutral about their boss Ryutaro Hashimoto announcing he will run for president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) but in private fume they are being used.

When Hashimoto declared Monday his long-expected candidacy for LDP chief, he vowed as leader of the dominant party in the coalition government to realize a rebuilding of Japan's economy — a plan much like the "scenario" that officials say he foisted on them as MITI policy.

Implicitly hitched to Hashimoto's political wagon, a senior MITI official said he finds it "distasteful to have the impression created that the ministry supports Mr. Hashimoto as a politician."

Although the LDP election is Sept. 22, the official said MITI will not be rushed into releasing the economic reconstruction scenario before its original deadline of the end of the month.

Officials expressed concern of LDP policy pressure, with one saying, "there ought to be a distinction between promises as a politician and promises as MITI minister."

The ministry mandarins are particularly worried about an expected forecast in the scenario for Japan's current-account surplus to fall to the 1 percent range of gross domestic product in three years.

Kono Picks Up 'Gauntlet' Thrown by Hashimoto

OW2108111695 Tokyo KYODO in English 1048 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Aug. 21 KYODO — Foreign Minister Yohei Kono vowed Monday [21 August] to pick up the gauntlet thrown down by International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and run for the September poll for president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the dominant force in the tripartite ruling coalition.

Kono's revelation of his intention to seek a second two-year term as LDP president in the Sept. 22 election came several hours after Hashimoto's announcement of his candidacy at a press conference at the party headquarters.

Kono plans to publicly proclaim his bid for reelection after he returns Saturday from a five-day trip to Thailand, Cambodia and Australia, his aides said.

With their announcements of their LDP presidential ambitions, the two top LDP lawmakers plunged into intra-party campaigns for the election, which is expected to be a showdown between them before announcing the candidacy at the news conference, Hashimoto met Hashimoto met Kono, the incumbent LDP leader, and told him about his plan to run for the party presidential election.

Earlier in the day, Hashimoto told reporters in front of his home in Tokyo that he wants to battle for the LDP leadership with grace.

The minister said he has decided to run after being shocked by the outcome of the July 23 House of Councillors election in which his party fared worse than expected.

"I realized that public trust has not yet been restored," he said.

Open discussions through the presidential race will show the Japanese people a way to change the LDP for the better, Hashimoto said.

in announcing his candidacy for party presidency, Hashimoto presented a set of policy proposals for "restoring the confidence" of the people.

He pledged to seek a recovery of confidence in the economy as well as in politics and foreign policies, and in crisis management and maintenance of public safety.

Hashimoto also said he would attain a "renaissance of the LDP" to make the party worthy of the people's trust.

To that end, he proposed a more flexible party organization, clean politics, and complete eradication of maneuvering by factions.

Hashimoto's policy proposals also included a call for achieving stable economic growth in the next century without a large trade surplus or concern for unemployment.

It also advocated a more independent diplomacy, better crisis management, fundamental administrative reforms, a society where elderly citizens feel happy and an education system which helps students achieve their full potential as well as the pursuit of eternal world peace.

Future of Funada, Hatoyama Cooperation Viewed

952B0207A Tokyo SENTAKU in Japanese Jul 95 pp 60-61

[Unattributed article: "Will the 'Funada-Hatoyama' Cooperation Become Solid? One Can Expect a Boom if It Does"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

The Future of "Funada-Hatoyama" Cooperation

Nagatacho's drama of political realignment is still continuing, but the parties which are performing in it cannot have bright prospects anywhere, so a feeling of being blocked is overflowing. Most of the nation's people, who are spectators, have also completely lost interest in the Nagatacho drama. The segment of the public without party affiliation, which produced Tokyo Governor Yukio Aoshima and Osaka Governor Knock Yokoyama in the unified local elections, has now grown to all of 60 percent of the electorate, and is presenting to political parties an overwhelming lack of confidence. Behind this feeling of being blocked and this distrust of politics are any number of such causes as political parties' lack of policies and their failure to reform themselves, but the greatest of them is that there is to be found no appealing leader who attracts the public. Actually, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama is only said to "have a good personality," there are almost no voices which praise his policies or political ability.

Liberal Democratic Party President Yohei Kono, who is viewed as the leading candidate to be "Murayama's successor," also has accomplished almost nothing by exercising his own leadership during the last two years. Though, as deputy prime minister and minister for foreign affairs, he is number two in the Murayama government, he has made far less impact than Makiko Tanaka, director of the Science and Technology Agency. In the LDP, Vice President Keizo Obuchi and International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto have been rumored as rival candidates of Kono in the autumn selection of the party president. But these "do not fit" either (LDP elder).

In the New Frontier Party, former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who in the time of LDP dominance headed what was called a "puppet" government, occupies the position of party leader, and real power is held, as usual, by the "Ichi Ichi Team" of Secretary-General Ichiro Ozawa and Executive Council Chairman Yuichi Ichikawa.

Regardless of what party one scans, the persons dancing on the main stage are all senior performers whose merits have already been judged thoroughly. In this time of great political change, it is no longer possible for even the YKK trio: Policy Affairs Research Council Chairman Koichi Kato, Diet Affairs Committee Chairman Taku Yamasaki and former Postal Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who espouse a change in generations, to escape the label of "old politicians."

Top Thoroughbreds

New leaders are now being sought in political circles. If they are fresh leaders who are worthy of the voters' trust, they can become the axis of a large concentration in a re-realignment of the political landscape.

Ones who are now drawing warm glances from that viewpoint are the team of former Economic Planning Agency Director Hajime Funada of the New Frontier Party and Secretary General Yukio Hatoyama of New Party Sakigake. Both are persons for whom hopes for the future are held in their respective parties, and beyond that, recently they have begun to move actively in concert toward re-realignment of the political landscape.

Fifteen June. With the opportunity of complying with a magazine company's plan for a dialogue, Funada and Hatoyama thoroughly discussed dealing with political realignment and the outlook for the future political situation. In the discussion, although their perceptions differed somewhat in regard to making differences in historical view one axis in political realignment, concerning the necessity of a change in generations and other topics, their way of thinking was in agreement on everything. Furthermore, it is said that, deciding that: "We can also build a new political force by cooperating," they agreed to prepare for upheavals in the political situation, to continue to strengthen their interchange, and to explore the possibilities of cooperation.

It is said that Funada and Hatoyama's relationship was "comparatively good" since the time when they both belonged to the Takeshita faction in the LDP. After that, they had become distant since they parted company in the summer of the year before last when Funada joined the former Shinseito, and Hatoyama joined Sakigake, but they reopened their association in mid May of this year. The occasion was when Koichi Kato called Funada and Hatoyama and met with them. After that Funada and Hatoyama met alone without including anyone else, and they are having a straightforward exchange of opinions.

Their drawing close is for no other reason than that they sense a kind of deadlock in the current situation inside their respective parties.

In Funada's case, he was selected for TIME magazine's "100 Persons of the 21st Century," and within the New Frontier Party, also, he was widely spoken of as "a future candidate for prime minister." At the time of the uproar over the breakup of the Takeshita faction he served as chief of the faction secretariat, and stood on Ozawa's side and fought fiercely with Hashimoto and other faction executives. He was praised for a steadiness which belies his youth, and also won so much confidence during the time of the Shinseito that he was called "Ozawa's favorite."

However, in selecting a party head when forming the New Frontier Party at the end of last year, Funada supported Tsutomu Hata, who had been head of the Shinseito, so a gulf widened between him and Ozawa, who was in the position of backing Kaifu.

It is said that once a personal relationship with Ozawa deteriorates, it is very difficult to repair. On the other hand, Funada, too, has the boldness to declare in an indifferent manner: "Since becoming a politician, I have never wanted to have a boss. Ozawa is not my boss either."

Funada, who felt a limitation in working under Ozawa, gradually intensified his criticism of the executive, and formed, within the party, an "Association To Consider the Qualities of a Prime Minister," and became its chairman. At the same time, he began to extend his circle of cooperation even beyond the party.

One of these is the "Association To Consider a System of Public Elections of Prime Ministers and the Qualities of Prime Ministers" (provisional name) which was formed between Funada and the YKK group in May. Koizumi reveals: "Public election of prime ministers and so on is only an excuse. The aim is to create now a venue for exchange of opinions in order to be able to act together when the political situation changes."

Funada himself also judges that: "A re-realignment of the political landscape will occur around the time of the next lower house election. That will be the time when victory or defeat will be decided," and expressed the strong-willed posture that: "If agreement cannot be obtained within the New Frontier Party, I want, rather, to speak with a certain part of the LDP and a part of the SDPJ, and if our opinions are in accord, to seek agreement of opinion and act, even if it means leaping over the fences between parties."

On the other hand, Hatoyama was required to seek partners for cooperation from a broad spectrum in order not to allow the small household of Sakigake to founder in the rough seas of political realignment. Therefore, in addition to cooperation with Funada, he is also searching for cooperation with former Hokkaido Governor Takahiro Yokomichi. Yokomichi is planning to organize a network of local parties, and make this the nucleus of a new concentration of political forces.

Also, the expectation that "he will develop into a Sakigake image who can replace Secretary General Takemura" is being placed on Hatoyama from within the party. Sakigake has a strong tinge of being the private shop of Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura, its secretary general, so Sakigake was placed in the position of its own base also declining when Takemura was severely criticized in regard to the problem of the two credit unions, the former Tokyo Kyowa and Anzen, and the problem of disposition and rationalization of government-affiliated financial institutions. The hope that Hatoyama "will develop into a star hitter" was born from this consideration. It can be said that his strengthening of contacts with such new leaders outside his party as Funada and Yokomichi is also a manifestation of Hatoyama's self-awakening.

The idea of "Funada-Hatoyama cooperation" has still only just begun. It is unclear what will happen in the future. In particular, Funada is suffering an adverse reaction within the New Frontier Party and severe pressure from the Ozawa executive in connection with the move of a "New Conservative-Conservative Alliance" with the YKK group, and is becoming isolated within the party. Funada, himself, is prepared to leave the party, saying: "my mind is made up," but there are also those who wonder: "How many will follow him?"

And yet, there is a good possibility that a big boom will develop if it appears that these two will clasp hands firmly and embark upon such moves as forming a new party.

The Future Is Still Unclear

Hatoyama comes from a family of politicians in which his great-great grandfather was speaker of the lower house, his grandfather, Ichiro was prime minister, his father Iichiro was minister for foreign affairs and his younger brother, Kunio is a former minister for education. He is now 48 years old. He has been elected three times.

Meanwhile, Funada also has a family in which his great-grandfather and grandfather were speakers of the lower house, and his father was governor of Tochigi Prefecture. He has already been elected six times, but is only 41 years old.

LDP Secretary General Yoshiro Mori says: "The young voters of recent times treat politics like fashion. It has become a time in which they select politicians by whether or not they look cool."

Added to youth and an illustrious family, there is the ambition to actively attempt political realignment. Furthermore, the advent of a time in which politics is becoming a fashion is also added, so it seems likely that the moves of the "political thoroughbred alliance" will attract still more attention in the future.

Editorial on Diplomatic Lessons From Germany

OW2008113495 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 13 Aug 95 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Japan Should Contribute to Asia; Let Us Serve as a Bridge over the Pacific Ocean"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Former German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher, who oversaw German reunification, was one of the most prominent diplomatic strategists in the post-World War period. He took the helm of German diplomacy in 1974 and led for the next 18 years. He promoted European detente throughout his tenure and helped to achieve German reunification.

The main reason behind Genscher's success in gaining the confidence of other European states, to say nothing of gaining Washington's as well, was his diplomatic ideal. He kept advocating that "to become a good European is to become a good German." These words plainly explain his diplomatic ideal. He noted his philosophy was influenced from that of Thomas Mann, the anti-Nazi German writer.

Explaining his diplomatic ideal to people and leaders from Europe and the United States, he repeatedly said, "Nazi Germany sought to Germanize Europe, whereas postwar Germany seeks to Europeanize Germany." This idea is an asset Mann left to postwar Germany as the result of his remorse for the war which Germany provoked.

Germany and Japan, both vanquished nations, made remarkable economic advances over the past 50 years, and were reborn as economic powers. However, there is a great difference between them in the status each holds among its neighbors, and in the respect each has won from the international community.

Germany dispelled wariness of European countries and the United States against it by expressing its clear-cut philosophy that "Germany exists for Europe, and not the other way around." Japan has many things to learn from Germany's wisdom and lessons.

After the war's end, Japan also tried to reconcile with Asian countries, and made diplomatic efforts to win the international community's trust. However, we have not attained as solid a result as Germany's.

Diet Resolution Increased Distrust of Japan

While South Korea, China, and other Asian countries still doubt if Japan actually repents its past actions, there is opposition in Japan which says that Japan should not continue to apologize indefinitely. However, given that Japanese politicians one after another made remarks to justify Japan's acts of aggression even after the government had issued a statement of apology, we cannot blame Asian countries for continuing to distrust us. Confusion over the Diet resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the war's end only served to heighten Asian disbelief in Japan.

When former Prime Minister Nakasone officially visited South Korea in 1983 for the first time as the leader of Japan, ROK President Chou Tu-whan told him, "The memory of fighting might easily fade from the attackers' mind but remains long in victims' mind." Nakasone said that he was struck by Chou's remark, and stressed that Japanese people should engrave this in their hearts. In addition, he said that being humble to the nations and citizens to whom Japan caused sufferings is the most important thing for us with respect to our relations with the rest of Asia.

The demolition of the former [Japanese] governor general's building will start in South Korea on 15 August. This building is the historic relic of the fact that Japan once tried to Japanize Asia. It seems that a demolition project, 50 years after the war's end, reflects South Korean leaders' intention to seek future-looking bilateral relations, while preserving historical lessons.

In a recent MAINICHI SHIMBUN opinion poll, in cooperation with the South Korean CHOSON ILBO, South Koreans' strong interest in Japan was indicated by the 90 percent of respondents who said that "they have things to learn from Japan." However, at the same time, only 26 percent replied that they have friendly sentiments toward Japan.

Wariness Still Remains

This means that Asian people still have a deep-rooted distrust of us. What kind of role should we assume to win their confidence? In the past 50 years, Japan has regarded Japan-U.S. relations as the pillar of our foreign policy. However, it was ironic that from the viewpoint of international-political-dynamics, stronger ties with the United States separated Japan from the rest of Asia. It cannot be overlooked that Japan has been surrounded by a more complicated and severe international situation than Germany, whose efforts to strengthen ties with the United States have directly resulted in cementing ties with European countries, particularly NATO states.

With their remarkable economic development, Asian nations are becoming more comfortable voicing their opinions. Recent tensions between the United States and China, which face each other across the Pacific Ocean, as well as strife between the United States and Malaysia, are products of economic growth in Asia. In addition, a territorial dispute has flared among China, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and Taiwan over the Spratly Islands.

Asian countries are now paying attention to the type of actions Japan will take given the new international situation facing Asia. We should serve as a bridge between Washington and Asia, instead of intensifying conflicts between them. To achieve this, Japan needs to have the diplomatic capability to maintain amicable relations not only with our Asian neighbors but also with the United States, and should strive to win people's understanding. Efforts should be made to create an opportunity to teach Asian affairs in the schools.

Learning from Germany's wisdom, Japan should recognize that our past aggression and war were attempts to "Japanize" Asia. If this country wants to exist as an Asian maritime nation, we should hold a clear-cut ideal that we will understand and serve the interests of Asia, and should take specific steps to achieve these goals.

Declining Sales Concern Toyota's Chairman

OW1808234595 Tokyo KYODO in English
2329 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nagoya, Aug. 19 KYODO — Toyota Motor Corp. honorary chairman Eiji Toyoda is concerned about Toyota's declining sales in recent months, he told KYODO NEWS SERVICE in a recent interview.

Here are some excerpts from the interview with Toyoda, who is credited with developing Toyota into a global conglomerate while he was president of the company from 1967 to 1982.

What do you think of the recent sales slowdown for Toyota?

The problem may be more or less related to the fact that we are in a period between annual releases of new models. Also, competition in the industry is becoming less intense. Good competition, which creates tension in the market, is necessary. Auto dealers could also become lazy. I do not give orders any more but am concerned about the problem.

(Toyota's vehicle sales in July dropped 5.8 percent from a year earlier to 191,792, while overall industry sales edged up 0.1 percent to 497,482 for the 14th consecutive month of year-on-year gains.)

Would you comment on fears of "deindustrialization" in the auto industry?

We have to sell more in the domestic market to maintain domestic production. We have to keep up with market demand, wherever it is growing. For example, there are 100 million affluent people in Southeast Asia.

("Deindustrialization" refers to moves among Japanese manufacturers to shift their production from Japan to overseas to deal with the yen's appreciation, which has forced a raise in their overseas sales prices.)

How do you assess Japan-U.S. relations (as far as auto trade is concerned)?

It seems to me that they are basically sound. Competition inevitably creates friction, and friction will never cease. Americans are complaining (about access to the Japanese auto market and other problems) but they are in a position to complain.

(Japan and the U.S. in June worked out an agreement on car and car parts trade to avert a trade war.)

Is Toyota moving into new markets?

Toyota's philosophy is, do whatever other people do not. We have to innovate. However, automobiles are unlikely to be replaced by some other products anytime soon. It would take at least 10 years to develop something totally new. We are working on projects to develop new products but that is difficult because there is no market comparable to the automobile market. I think emission control and safety devices will make steady technical progress in the coming years. An automobile, 10 years from now, could also be different from what it is today.

Companies Plan To Mass-Produce CD's in PRC

OW2108033695 Tokyo KYODO in English
0142 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Aug. 21 KYODO — Mitsubishi Corp. and Daiichi Kosho Co. will mass-produce music and video compact discs (CDs) in China in a joint venture with China Record Corp., a Chinese state enterprise, a Mitsubishi spokesman said Monday [21 August].

This represents the first volume production of CDs in China by foreign concerns since similar production by Philips Electronics NV of the Netherlands in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone in 1992, the spokesman said. The Dutch electronics giant later stopped CD production in China, however.

Mitsubishi, a big trading house, and Daiichi Kosho, a Tokyo-based firm that sells and leases karaoke systems, will turn out six million discs a year in the initial stage, he said, adding the annual output will be boosted to 10 million in 1997, for sale in China, Japan and Southeast Asian countries.

The Chinese Government has stepped up a crackdown on manufacturers of pirated CDs following the February agreement with the United States to protect intellectual property rights.

Mitsubishi and Daiichi Kosho have acquired Shanghai United Optical Disc Co., a major CD maker, buying 60 percent of its outstanding shares for around 200 million yen.

China's annual CD production has been running at about 60 million discs, only one-sixth the total output of Japan. But the CD market in China has been growing at an annual rate of 20 percent in recent years.

Mongolia

Ministry Demands End to PRC Nuclear Tests

LD1908060995 ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian
0510 GMT 19 Aug 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kim Boldokhonov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ulan Bator, 19 Aug — "The people and the Government of Mongolia deeply regret tests carried out by China to improve its nuclear weapons," a statement by an official spokesman of the Mongolian Foreign Ministry says.

"Nuclear explosions close to Mongolia's borders pose a serious threat to its environment, population, flora, and fauna. Mongolia demands from the Chinese side to stop its nuclear tests," the statement says.

North Korea

Dailies Urge Total Ban on Nuclear Tests, Arms

NODONG SINMUN Article

SK1908135695 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
1125 GMT 19 Aug 95

[NODONG SINMUN 19 August commentary: "Wrong Attempts Must Be Abandoned"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN Disarmament Conference is being held in Geneva. A major topic is a total ban on nuclear tests. The world's peace-loving people hope the nuclear powers will firmly promise to the international community not to conduct any nuclear tests forever, and contribute to creating a favorable condition for a comprehensive and total nuclear disarmament.

However, the nuclear powers' position on the ban on nuclear tests makes us doubt that the world people's hope may ever be realized. Of course, the nuclear powers say they do support the ban on nuclear tests. Actions are more important than words. They assert that nuclear arms testing must be banned in principle, but that tests to discern malfunctioning elements of nuclear warheads must be recognized as special cases and be allowed.

The self-contradicting and deceptive assertion of the nuclear powers can never be accepted. They say that without such tests, it will be very difficult to detect malfunctions in warheads that have been stored for a long time. Under whatever objective, nuclear tests are against mankind's aspiration and desire to live peacefully in a world without nuclear weapons or the threat of nuclear war. Such an assertion against the current trend of the time toward antinuclear and denuclearization is unjustifiable.

By talking about testing for malfunctioning elements of nuclear warheads, the nuclear powers are in effect attempting to create a special condition favorable to them in the issue of banning nuclear tests and to continue nuclear tests without any restriction. Nuclear powers are today talking about special tests and mini-tests using the pretext of testing for malfunctioning elements of nuclear warheads. What other pretext will they use tomorrow to justify larger-scale nuclear tests?

The nuclear powers are deceiving and fooling mankind's desire for peace. There are quite a number of examples. During discussions on the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the nuclear powers guaranteed security to countries not possessing nuclear weapons, talking about non-use of nuclear weapons.

Those are empty words without any legal binding force, leaving the possibility that the nuclear powers may use nuclear weapons any moment depending on their strategic interests.

Nuclear weapons should not be monopolized by certain countries. The nuclear powers must abandon their attempt to monopolize and maintain the nuclear weapons that are endangering the world's peace and security. They should completely abolish nuclear weapons.

If the nuclear powers continue nuclear tests using the pretext of special tests and mini-tests, nuclear tests will never end, and a comprehensive and total nuclear disarmament will never be realized. The nuclear threat will grow even greater on a worldwide scale. In order to assure peace on the Korean peninsula and in various regions of the world, a comprehensive and total nuclear disarmament must be realized. If the nuclear powers are truly interested in the world's peace and security, they should actively come forward to realize a comprehensive and total nuclear disarmament.

MINJU CHOSON Article

SK1908043095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418 GMT 19 Aug 95

["Nuclear Powers Must Dismantle Nukes Totally and Immediately" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 19 (KCNA) — MINJU CHOSON in a by-lined article Friday called for a total abolition of nuclear arms on the globe.

At the UN Conference on Disarmament now under way in Geneva, non-nuclear states are opposing the tolerance of nuclear powers' special nuclear test, it noted, and said:

It is the intention of the nuclear powers to establish their domination over the world by brandishing nuclear weapons.

Owing to the continued test and production of nukes by nuclear powers, the number of stored nuclear arms is still increasing and it has a negative influence on the trend of the world situation. The world is now covered with thick, dark clouds of a nuclear war and an acute situation in which a nuclear war may break out any moment is prevailing.

The vigorous struggles of the peaceloving people are being waged in different parts of the world to remove nuclear arms and establish nuclear-free, peace zones.

Anti-nuke peace is the consistent policy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The DPRK has made all possible efforts to remove the nuclear danger and turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone since the nuclear issue came into existence with the shipment of U.S. nuclear arms into South Korea.

We put forward the proposal of establishing a new peace-keeping system in the Korean peninsula. This is part of the DPRK Government's anti-nuke peace policy.

The nuclear powers must ponder over the grave consequences to be entailed by the deeds going against the aspiration of humankind.

If they truly want the removal of nuclear threat on the globe and a lasting peace, they should put a total ban on the test, production and deployment of nuclear arms and go towards the road of completely abolishing them as soon as possible.

U.S. Air Exercise With South Denounced

SK2008013095 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a military source, the U.S. imperialist warmongers and puppets conducted acts of aerial espionage and aerial war exercises aimed at northward invasion in skies over the South Korean area on 17 and 18 August.

About 0550 [2050 on 17 August] on 18 August, an RC-135 strategic reconnaissance plane, which flew from an overseas base to the sky over the South Korean area, flew across east and west for a long time along the sky over the Military Demarcation Line [MDL], ran amuck in electronic and photographing espionage acts against the entire area of the northern half of the Republic.

Prior to this, about 1230 [0330 GMT] on 17 August, an airborne warning and control system [AWACS], which flew from an overseas base into the skies over the South Korean Yesan and Chungju area, commanded the fighters of the U.S. Seventh Air Force participating in the aerial war exercise for northward invasion in the skies over this area, while engaging in an act of aerial espionage against our side.

On the same day, some 10 Army and Air Force tactical reconnaissance planes, including an U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane, flew around one after another in the skies over the MDL, busily engaging in acts of aerial espionage against deep into our side and the frontline day and night.

Meanwhile, on 17 and 18 August, the puppets conducted an aerial exercise for a preemptive strike on the northern half of the Republic in the skies over the Tokchokto, Sangdong, and Anmyondo area as an operational stage.

Participating in this powder-reeking fire game were some 350 fighter-bombers, assault planes, and reconnaissance planes from the puppet Air Force.

We are watching with high revolutionary vigilance these maneuvers for preparation of war of northward invasion perpetrated by the U.S. imperialist warmongers and the South Korean puppets with the criminal Ulchi Focus Lens-95 joint military exercise approaching.

The U.S. imperialists and the Kim Yong-sam ring should see the general trend squarely and refrain from rash and thoughtless actions.

U.S. Accused of Evading Responsibility for Peace

SK1808151395 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1225 GMT 18 Aug 95

[NODONG SINMUN 18 August commentary: "The United States Must Make a Bold Decision"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States is not striving to fulfill its responsibility to guarantee peace and security on the Korean peninsula, but is continually showing an insincere attitude.

It is an urgent question for realizing durable peace and security on the Korean peninsula to establish a new peace mechanism to replace the outdated armistice system in this area.

If the United States is truly interested in removing tensions and confrontation and preserving a lasting peace and security on the Korean peninsula, it must pay attention to the issue of establishing a new peace mechanism and come to the negotiating table with us.

However, the United States not only continuously turns its back on the issue of establishing a new peace mechanism, but also is resorting to trickery in an attempt to evade its rightful responsibility.

This is shown by the fact that the United States is persistently attempting to have others interfere in this issue. The issue of establishing a new peace mechanism on the Korean peninsula can be settled only by us and the United States. This is because we and the United States are the legal parties related to the state of war.

The United States started the last Korean war against our Republic. The two countries are signatories to the Korean Armistice Agreement.

The armistice means the suspension of fighting between us and the United States. The continuation of armistice status means that we and the United States are constantly in a state of war.

Therefore, if the unstable armistice is to be terminated and a lasting peace is to be preserved on the Korean peninsula, the issue of replacing the outdated armistice system with a new peace mechanism must be resolved between the DPRK and the United States.

However, the United States is trying to evade the issue, as if it is not the legal party related to this issue.

As for the South Korean puppets, they acted as stooges of the United States for war and were not even able to poke their nose into the conclusion of the Armistice Agreement. They are merely the puppets who cannot exercise real power to maintain the armistice and to guarantee the peace.

The United States has the prerogative of supreme command of the military in South Korea. Besides, the one who destroyed the armistice system is the United States.

Due to the deliberate, irresponsible conduct of the United States, the Armistice Agreement remains in name only and its executive and watch bodies also exist in name only, not in reality.

Nevertheless, the United States is trying to put the South Korean puppets to the fore. This is a trick to complicate the settlement of issues and delay the issue of establishing a peace mechanism. With the previous armistice system, one cannot even prevent an accidental situation from occurring.

The United States should not evade its responsibility. The replacement of the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement is a demand of the resolution adopted at the 30th session of the UN General Assembly, and at the same time, is a commitment the United States made before the UN member states at the session.

If the United States evades the responsibility for ensuring peace and security on the Korean peninsula, its international trust and confidence may be lost and its image may be damaged.

A framework agreement has been adopted between the DPRK and the United States and its implementation is under way. So, even if the United States responds to peace negotiations with the DPRK, it will not lose its face and there is nothing harmful to U.S. interests. Rather, this will be beneficial to the United States and welcomed by the international community.

The United States must discard the wrong concept and attitude and make a bold decision as soon as possible to conclude a peace agreement and terminate the state of war with us.

This is demanded by world conscience and reason.

The United States must not ignore this. The international community is watching the U.S. attitude.

U.S. Munitions Agreement With South Reported

SK2008093895 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a South Korean broadcast report, the U.S. occupation forces in South Korea are attempting to hand over a lot of war equipment again to the puppet army. According to a munitions agreement concluded on 16 August between the U.S. Army Command and the puppet National Defense Ministry, the U.S. Army is supposed to hand over more than $67 million worth of 275 M-48A5 tanks and guns, as well as some 40,000 rounds of ammunition, to the puppet army by mid-September.

The repeated transfer of murderous arms by the U.S. occupation forces are criminal acts to shake up the South Korean warmongers to a war adventure against their fellow countrymen.

Ambassador to Cuba Criticizes U.S.

SK2108015095 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 8 August, our country's embassy in Cuba held a news conference pertaining to 1 August Foreign Ministry spokesman's press statement denouncing the United States for staging the racket of events commemorating the Korean war in Washington some time ago.

Participating in the news conference were reporters of newspapers and broadcasting stations in Cuba.

Our country's Ambassador to Cuba Kim Sung-yong first made a statement.

He informed the reporters of the text of the press statement made by the Foreign Ministry spokesman. He exposed that the United States called Kim Yong-sam to Washington and staged a racket of events commemorating the Korean war in order to distort the truth of history, to inspire the South Korean authorities who are isolated and rejected at home and abroad, and to work out an excuse for the United States to occupy South Korea by instigating a sense of hostility against us.

He pointed out that he cannot but take seriously the junket by the person in authority in South Korea.

He stressed that the basic issue for ensuring detente and peace on the Korean peninsula is to eliminate the hostile relations between the DPRK and the United States and to have U.S. troops withdraw from South Korea.

He said that the United States should show sincere attitude toward the establishment of a new peace guarantee system aimed at preventing the recurrence of war on the Korean peninsula, instead of inspiring the war frenzy by regarding us as an enemy.

Following this, the ambassador answered the reporters' questions.

South's Suppression of Students Criticized

SK2008084795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0827 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 20 (KCNA) — The Kim Yong-sam group issued arrest warrants for the chairman of the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon), the chairman of the National Reunification Committee of Hanchongnyon and the chairman of the Seoul Regional Federation of General Student Councils on charges of violation of the "National Security Law" for the mere reason that they dispatched delegates of Hanchongnyon under the South side headquarters of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification to the northern half of the country to take part in the grand national reunification festival marking the 50th liberation day.

NODONG SINMUN today brands this as a fascist step of the separatists against the nation's desire for reunification.

The news analyst says:

Hanchongnyon dispatched its delegates to the festival, reflecting the nation's fervent desire and will for reunification.

Motivated by their patriotic will to dedicate their youth to national reunification and be the proud generation of reunification, their action deserves praises of the entire nation.

If the Kim Yong-sam group have national conscience and want reunification if only a little, they should have praised the leaders of Hanchongnyon who dispatched delegates to the nation's joint festival.

However, the Kim Yong-sam group incriminate and suppress the leaders of Hanchongnyon by invoking the "National Security Law." This is a despicable retaliation of those elbowed from the strong march of the nation toward reunification and an unpardonable crime against national unity and reunification.

The fascist clique plans to brutally suppress the South Korean students calling for independence, democracy and reunification, put down the righteous action of the students, the patriotic vanguard of reunification, and obliterate the reunification movement in South Korea.

With no amount of suppression, however, can the fascist clique break the will of the South Korean students and other people to reunify the country with the united strength of the nation.

Reunification is the general will of the nation. Those who go against it will be punished. The Kim Yong-sam group will have to pay dearly for their criminal suppression of the patriotic students who ardently wish reunification.

Daily's Commentary Reported

SK2108052095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454 GMT 21 Aug 95

["True Color of Anti-reunification Group Unveiled" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 21 (KCNA) — The Kim Yong-sam fascist clique have suppressed South Korean students and people in a struggle for national unity and reunification at the point of bayonet around the country's liberation day, August 15. This is an anti-reunification crime against the people's long-cherished desire for the reunification of the country.

NODONG SINMUN says this in a commentary today.

The analyst goes on:

The fascist clique blocked the march to Panmunjom of more than 20,000 students affiliated with the South Korean's Federation of General Student Councils and cracked down on the grand reunification festival of students and the reunification concert. This has brought into bolder relief their true color as the heinous traitors and foes of reunification who do not want national reconciliation, unity and reunification but seek their way out in confrontation, division and war preparations.

The struggle waged by the South Korean students and people for joint national celebration of August 15 was very righteous and just. They can never be incriminated.

The harsh suppression of their struggle by the Kim Yong-sam group is as good as the traitors' sword-brandishing against patriots and is a never-to-be-condoned fascist outrage.

Though the Kim Yong-sam group are desperately trying to save themselves from their catastrophic crisis by brutally suppressing the pro-reunification democratic forces, it is a foolish act.

The South Korean students and people will never allow the anti- reunification group to block their patriotic will for reunification by bayonets.

Paper Urges Contribution to Reunification

SK1908104095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 19 Aug 95

["Tangible Contribution Should Be Made to Country's Reunification" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 19 (KCNA) — All the compatriots in the North, South and abroad should make a tangible contribution to the reunification of the country to suit their circumstances and conditions as a member of the Korean nation transcending differences in party grouping affiliation political view and religious belief says NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

The article quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying in the preface of "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country":

"Those with strength devoting their strength, those with knowledge giving their knowledge and those with money donating their money, all should make a tangible contribution to the reunification of the country and the development and prosperity of a reunified land, so putting an end to national division and displaying the dignity and honour of the reunited 70 million fellow countrymen to the world."

The article further says:

Comrade Kim Il-song's proposition is a slogan of national unity to be held high by all the Koreans with the true intention of reunification and patriotism, whether they be in the North, South and abroad, and a banner of patriotic action which makes it possible for the fellow countrymen to ensure oneness and unity in the struggle for national reunification.

If the workers, peasants, youth and students, intellectuals, religionists and conscientious native capitalists in the North, South and abroad—all the Koreans sharing the intention of reunification and patriotism are solidarized and allied organisationally and support and cooperate with each other and take a joint pace, preserving their characters, they can form a strong driving force of reunification and successfully carry out the cause of national reunification.

The compatriots from all walks of life in the North, South and abroad, under the banner of the ten-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation put forward by the great leader, should firmly unite in the spirit of patriotism and national independence irrespective of the distinctions in idea, system and religious belief and make a tangible contribution to national reunification and the development and prosperity of a reunified country to suit their circumstances and conditions as a member of the Korean nation, so displaying the dignity and honor of the 70 million fellow countrymen to the world.

Foreigners Express Support for Reunification

SK2108111295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 21 (KCNA) — Foreigners and overseas Koreans who took part in the grand national reunification festival celebrating the 50th anniversary of national liberation expressed the determination to wage more vigorously the movement for Korea's reunification.

Anders Kristensen, secretary general of the Nordic Cooperation Committee for friendship and solidarity with the Korean people, said the festival was a great demonstration of the validity and vitality of the cause of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great man of the world, and a historic event that represented the unanimous desire of the Korean people firmly united with the will to achieve reunification.

"The world progressive humankind will always support the cause of reunification of the Korean people," he said, adding: "Nobody in the world will dampen the efforts of the Korean people to achieve the country's reunification, closely rallied with one will."

Jack McPhillips, former chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Australia, said the festival was a historic event that had demonstrated the united strength of the Korean people for national reunification. "The festival showed to the whole world that the Korean people's just cause of reunification will be realized without fail," he said.

Yu Tae-yong, co-chairman of the American headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), said that the festival was a proud grand gathering for accelerating reunification and that they would conduct more vigorously the nationwide reunification movement in the North, the South and overseas by keeping the oath and pledge they had made before the nation in the future struggle for reunification.

Chu Yong-il, vice-chairman of the International Korean Association (unity), said he is firmly convinced that the reunification behests of the great leader President Kim Il-song on reunification would be carried into effect without fail so that the day of reunification desired by the Korean nation would come on any account.

Guy Dupre, secretary general of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea (Cilreco), said the festival was participated in by many prominent figures from different countries including members of Cilreco.

"This clearly proves that what a great interest the world's progressive humankind has in Korea's reunification," he said.

He expressed firm belief that no matter how desperately the separatists within and without may seek the permanent division of Korea, the Korean people would certainly achieve the country's reunification with the strength of the nation.

Kim Yong-sam Group's Handling of Kwangju Decried

SK1908045095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427 GMT 19 Aug 95

["NODONG SINMUN Supports South Korean People's Struggle" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 19 (KCNA) — The third people's rally for prosecution of murderers of May 18 incident was held in Seoul on August 16. Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says it is only too natural that the South Korean people have risen up in the struggle with curse and resentment at the murderers of the Kwangju incident and the Kim Yong-sam group defending them.

The news analyst goes on:

The South Korean people have strongly called for bringing the chief murderers to a trial of history and passing stern judgment upon them, with the will to make them pay a thousand fold for the blood shed by the resistance fighters who fell with grudge.

It is the will of the people that the crimes of the chief murderers who should have been torn to death can never be left unpunished.

The Kim Yong-sam group, however, are actively defending the murderers from the beginning, talking about "respectful treatment" of the former rulers, and blaring that the judgment of Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u should "be left to history". Some time ago, the Kim Yong-sam group decided not to charge the traitors Chon and No and all others related to the Kwangju massacre, covering up their crimes and opening a way out for them. They declared the murderers guiltless. This is a challenge to the Kwangju resistance fighters and an anti-popular, anti-historical violence going against the will of the people who want a fair solution to the Kwangju incident.

This fully proves that the "civilian" signboard put up by the Kim Yong-sam group is no more than a screen to cover up their criminal color going against the will of the people and they are the same fascist murderers as the traitors Chon and No.

The Kim Yong-sam group are trying to save the murderers in a bid to intensify the ruling foundation for the latter half of their office by dint of their efforts. But it is a foolish and pitiful attempt.

The Kim Yong-sam group must withdraw the decision not to prosecute the chief murderers of the Kwangju massacre at once and come out to a trial of history together with the traitors Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u as demanded by the people.

Protest in South Reported

SK2108045995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 21 (KCNA) — Some 1,000 young people including former chairman of the General Student Council of Korea University, Ho In-hoe, who were involved in student movement, published a declaration of young people on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of national liberation (August 15) on August 17, a Seoul-based radio reported.

The declaration stated they will do away with the present-day political order and build up a new political force.

It condemned the decision of Kim Yong-sam "regime" to turn down the suit brought against the culprits of the May 18 massacre and urged the punishment of Kwangju murderers.

And, more than 100 professors at Pusan National University made public a statement on August 18 and called for the punishment of all the May 18 murderers and introduction of a special prosecution system for dealing with the May 18 incident.

South Korean Prisoners Criticize Security Law

SK2008082395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0807 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 20 (KCNA) — Kim Son-myong and other unconverted long-term prisoners in South Korea on Friday said the "National Security Law" (NSL) is an evil law aimed at keeping Korea divided into the North and the South and it must be abolished as early as possible for Korea's peaceful reunification, according to a media report.

Meanwhile, the South side preparatory committee of the joint national celebration of the 50th anniversary of the August 15 liberation of the country held a rally of Kwangju citizens in front of the Kwangju prison on August 9, urging the South Korean puppet authorities to scrap "NSL" and release all the prisoners of conscience in South Korea.

Strikes by 2,000 Unionists in South Reported

SK2108045395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 21 (KCNA) — About 2,000 unionists of South Korea's Heavy Industries and Construction Co., Ltd launched into the second day of their overall strike on August 19 in demand of wage hike, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The workers had a rally and strongly urged the company management to increase wage, vowing to go into an indefinite sit-in until their demand is met.

They stubbornly fought against the company's gangsters trying to disperse them.

The workers are now on red alert, to cope with possible closure of their workshop by the company management and police mobilization by the authorities, the radio said.

ROK Students Visit Children in Pyongyang

SK1908043195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0413 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 19 (KCNA) — Chong Min-chu and Yi Hye-chong, delegates of the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon) under the South side headquarters of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification, visited the Pyongyang School Children's Palace on Thursday.

The delegates exchanged warm feelings of kinship with school children, playing the song "Arirang" and dancing together.

After the visit, Chong Min-chu wrote in the visitor's book that at the looks of children she felt how strong a reunified fatherland will be and how bright the future will be.

Ten-Point Program for Unification Termed 'Fair'

SK2108103495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 21 Aug 95

["Fair and Aboveboard Reunification Programme That Indicates Ways of Great National Unity" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 21 (KCNA) — All the ways of great national unity laid down by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in the 10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation constitute the most realistic and fair charter of unity, which conforms to the specific conditions of Korea and the interests and demand of the nation, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

The article further says:

The North and the South of Korea should by no means seek, nor fuel confrontation, but stop all manner of political bickerings and slandering against each other. And they should put a period to antagonism among the fellow countrymen and work together to pool the strength of the nation so as to cope with foreign aggression and intervention with concerted efforts. They should not threaten and invade each other, and neither side should try to force its system on the other. Only then, can they terminate distrust and face-off between them and achieve great national unity.

The Korean people are all responsible for the reunification of the country. If they are to fulfill their responsibility and play the role as the masters of the struggle for national reunification, it is necessary to guarantee the freedom of debate on and of activities for reunification and should not suppress, take reprisals against, persecute or punish political opponents.

People should not be criticised for their inclinations to the North or to the South, and all the political prisoners should be released and their rights be restored so that all of them may help toward national reunification.

Both before reunification and after it the North and South should recognise public ownership, cooperative ownership and private ownership and protect the capital and property of individuals and organisations, as well as interests concerned with foreign capital in order to achieve the great unity of the whole nation. They should recognise the social reputation and qualifications of individuals in all domains including science, education, literature, the arts, the press, health care and sports, and continue to guarantee the benefits granted to those people who have performed meritorious services.

In order to remove misunderstanding and distrust within the nation and to achieve national reconciliation and unity, it is necessary for compatriots to make free travel, frequent contacts and dialogue.

All the Koreans in the North, the South and overseas should support and encourage things beneficial to national reunification in an unbiased manner and reject things harmful to it. And they should take concerted action and cooperate with one another.

Special favours should be granted to those who have performed exploits for the sake of the great unity of the nation and the reunification of the country, to patriotic martyrs and to their descendants. If those who had turned their back on the nation in the past repent of their past mistakes and take the road of patriotism, they should be dealt with leniently and assessed fairly, according to the contribution they have made to the cause of national reunification.

All Koreans in the North, the South and overseas should reunify the country in the 90s without fail under the uplifted banner of the 10-point programme of the great national unity and thus realise with credit the behests of Comrade Kim Il-song on reunification, adds the article.

Overseas Koreans Send Letters to Kim Chong-il

SK2008081895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0802 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 20 (KCNA) — Congratulatory letters were sent to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il by Koreans overseas on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Korea's liberation.

They came from the General Association of Korean Citizens in China, the Liaoning and Jilin Provincial associations and the Yanbian, Jiamusi, Mudanjiang and Zhongnan regional associations of the Federation of Young Korean Citizens in China and other Korean Residents in China, the International Korean Association (Unity), Korean associations (Unity) in different republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States and their subsidiary organizations, the Korean War Veterans Committee in Uzbekistan, the organization of Korean Citizens in Russia and other Koreans in Russia.

The letters express ardent yearning and deep reverence for the great leader President Kim Il-song on the occasion and say he, the greatest man in the world, will always be kept in the minds of the Korean nation including overseas compatriots.

They wholeheartedly wish Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and a long life.

Comrade Kim Chong-il received a letter also from president of the International Taekwondo Federation Choe Hong-hui on the same occasion.

The letter says it is the greatest fortune for the Korean nation that it has the great leader General Kim Chong-il, a peerless hero. The Korean nation is blessed with great leaders through generations, it stresses.

Japan's Treatment of Ethnic Koreans Denounced

SK1908102395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 19 (KCNA) — Choe Il-su, chairman of the Association for Defence of Human Rights of Koreans in Japan, and a delegate of the Union of Korean Students in Japan under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan reportedly made speeches at the session of the UN Commission on Human Rights held in Geneva some time ago, at which they disclosed and denounced the Japanese Government's continued policy of discrimination on Korean residents.

Koreans in Japan should carry "foreigner registration certificates" compulsorily and at all times or be punished under the Japanese law, the speakers said, denouncing the Japanese Government for still refusing to excise this unreasonable "Aliens Registration Law".

The Japanese Government, they said, refuses to recognize 140 odd Korean schools in Japan as regular ones because they are educational institutions fostering Korean nationality. It urges them to use the Japanese textbooks approved by the Ministry of Education of Japan and teach in Japanese and according to the Japanese curriculum, they disclosed, branding it as a policy of national obliteration and a policy of naturalising Koreans in Japan.

Korean schools have been a target of the suppression by the Japanese authorities, the speakers noted, and said:

The Japanese gangsters would make an assault on Korean girl students wearing national dresses. Last year witnessed more than 160 cases of such assaults.

The are a product of the Japanese Government's policy of discrimination on Korean residents, they said, urging the United Nations to investigate this issue, considering it to be a fundamental encroachment upon human rights.

Japan Urged To Make 'Government-Level' Apology

SK2108044995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 21 Aug 95

["Crime-Woven Past Must Be Liquidated Properly" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 21 (KCNA) — "Japan must make a total investigation into the truth behind the past crimes, open it to public, make a government-level apology directly to the victims and adequately compensate them," stressed MINJU CHOSON in an article on August 20. The article cited data to disclose many crimes the Japanese imperialists committed against the Korean people during their 40- odd-year-long colonial rule over Korea after they illegally occupied it.

"Japan has neither admitted nor atoned for the blackest crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists against the Korean people in the past and is playing a trick in every way to avoid the state compensation," the article said. "It is well illustrated by the attitude of the Japanese authorities towards the case of 'comfort women for the Japanese Army'". It further said: "The Japanese Government must take responsibility for and compensate for all sorts of crimes including the crime against the 'comfort women'. This is so natural in view of the international law and international usages.

"It is an intolerable insult to and mockery of the conscience of mankind for the Japanese Government to try to flee from the responsibility for crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists in the past.

"Now the world people as well as the Japanese people are exhorting the Japanese Government to admit in a correct way and compensate for the past crimes and to break with the crime-woven history on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the defeat of Japan in World War II".

"The Japanese Government must squarely see the situation and clearly liquidate the crime-woven past," it added.

Liaoning Delegation Visits Kim Il-song Statue

SK2108045195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0428 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 21 (KCNA) — A delegation of the Liaoning Provincial party school led by its Deputy President Tong Zhiwu called at the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill on August 19, to lay a bouquet of flowers and make bows.

SPA Sends Greetings to Indonesia Parliament

SK1908223995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1459 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 19 (KCNA) — Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], sent a message of greetings to Wahono [spelling of name as received], speaker of the House of People's Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its independence.

The message expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parliaments will develop more favourably, and sincerely wished the speaker and the House of People's Representatives of Indonesia greater success in their activities for the prosperity and development of the country.

Malaysian Information Delegation Visits

SK2108045295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 21 (KCNA) — A delegation of the Ministry of Information of Malaysia led by its General Secretary Datuk Zawawi Bin Mahmuddin visited on Sunday the Kumsusan Memorial Palace where the great leader President Kim Il-song is preserved in state and paid homage to the president.

The head of the delegation in a visitor's book wrote that it is a privilege and honour for the delegation to visit the Kumsusan Memorial Palace and pay homage to the great leader.

Earlier, the delegation called at the statue of President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill to lay bouquets and make a bow.

Syrian Meeting Supports 10-Point Program

SK1908104295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 19 (KCNA) — A solidarity meeting for supporting "10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" and the struggle of the South Korean people was held in Damascus on July 25.

Addressing the meeting, the president of the Political University under the Arab Socialist Baath Party said the ten-point programme put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-song is an inspiring banner powerfully propelling not only the struggle of the Korean people for the peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula but humankind's common cause of independence, sovereignty and social progress so that it enjoys full support from the world's progressives.

He said the death of President Kim Il-song was a big loss in the efforts for the reunification of the Korean peninsula and in the international communist movement. "As long as there is his excellency the great leader Kim Chong-il, another outstanding leader in our age, the reunification of Korea and the victory of humankind's independence and socialism are definite," he said.

He condemned the anti-national, anti-reunification crimes of the Kim Yong-sam group going against the ten-point programme and vowed to invigorate the solidarity movement for supporting the National Democratic Front of South Korea (NDFSK) and the South Korean people in their struggle for the country's reunification.

In his speech the chief of the NDFSK mission in Syria said that since it was published, the ten-point programme has been supported and welcomed by all the Korean nation for its steadfast patriotic stand and fair contents.

"The NDFSK and the South Korean people are now vigorously struggling to overthrow the Kim Yong-sam regime, have the "National Security Law" abolished and achieve the reconciliation and unity of the whole nation, setting it as the main goal of the reunification movement to confirm the confederation formula on a nationwide scale," he said, and continued:

"The implementation of the ten-point programme is definitely guaranteed under the outstanding leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader of the Korean nation who is successfully fulfilling the great leader President Kim Il-song's behest for reunification."

The letter to the South Korean people which was adopted at the meeting said:

"We will introduce and propagandise the South Korean people's movement for independence, democracy and reunification and actively conduct a solidarity movement for supporting them.

"We will also condemn on a worldwide scale the colonial fascist rule and anti-North belligerent moves by the U.S. imperialists and the Kim Yong-sam regime and further activate the struggle for the abolition of the 'National Security Law,' the dissolution of the 'Agency for National Security Planning' and the release of prisoners of conscience and repatriation of unconverted long-term prisoners."

A letter to Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the meeting.

Letter Sent to Kim Chong-il

SK1908043295 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0405 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 19 (KCNA) — A letter was sent to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il by the participants in a solidarity meeting for supporting "10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" and the struggle of the South Korean people which was held in Damascus.

The letter says they reaffirmed the ten-point programme put forward by His Excellency President Kim Il-song is the only way of terminating the tragic history of the nation's division which began with the end of World War II and turning the three-thousand-ri territory into a reunified paradise.

Though His Excellency President Kim Il-song passed away, it notes, his august name and feats will always remain shining, kept in the memory of humankind. It expresses the belief that the ten-point programme will be implemented successfully under the outstanding and tested leadership of His Excellency Kim Chong-il.

It also expresses their determination to contribute to the implementation of the programme by further intensifying activities for support and solidarity for the struggle of the National Democratic Front of South Korea and the South Korean people.

The letter wholeheartedly wishes Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and a long life.

Ghanaian Leaders Meet WPK Delegation

SK2008115695 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
0100 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ghanaian politicians have expressed a high sense of respect and admiration for the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

(Norand Achakeso), chairman of the Ghanaian National Congress Party, made the following remarks on 11 August during his meeting with a Workers Party of Korea [WPK] delegation:

The sudden death of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was the greatest loss for the African people. He was the center and a close friend of the African people, as well as the oppressed people throughout the world, who sincerely and devotedly supported the African people in their struggles to achieve national independence and liberation.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song will forever be with our African people and the progressive people throughout the world. In today's changing world, the WPK has become the only beacon of hope for progressive mankind. In particular, the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "Socialism Is a Science" became a weapon for our party to educate party members.

In the future, too, our party will further strengthen the friendly relationship with the WPK and, also, send firm solidarity to your party and people for their struggle to defend the socialist cause.

(Kris Frache), general secretary of the Ghanaian Mass Party for Democracy and Development, stated on 11 August during a meeting with the WPK delegation that he warmly congratulated the Korean people on their success in the struggle to constantly safeguard and adhere to the revolutionary cause pioneered by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, making the following remarks:

The sudden death of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was the greatest loss for the people who pursue socialism, democracy, and justice. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song will live forever in our hearts because he was the great teacher who made our African people cherish a consciousness of independence. Socialism collapsed in many countries, but it is inspired constantly in Korea. This is because the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song firmly laid the foundation for socialism.

Today, the Korean people are constantly adhering to the revolutionary cause pioneered by the respected and beloved leader [suryong], firmly uniting around the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. This will be a great force to the political parties that aspire for socialism. The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's works "Socialism Is a Science" and "Giving Priority to Ideological Work is the Indispensable Demand For Implementing the Socialist Cause" became a true textbook for us.

(Hudu Yahaya), general secretary of the Ghanaian National and Democratic Congress, stated in his speech at the banquet for the WPK delegation on (?10 August): The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song devoted his whole life to the country's independence and the people's welfare. His wise leadership can be seen in the DPRK's superior policies for the people. Today, many changes are taking place throughout the world, but the Korean people are outstandingly building the popular mass-oriented socialism, overflowing with conviction and optimism. Through the reality of Korea, I have come to cherish a faith that our third-world countries can also build a people-oriented society in which all people equally enjoy their life.

The cause pioneered by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is being outstandingly inherited by the great leader Comrade Kim Chong- il. The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is a genius of ideology and theory, as well as the outstanding leader [takwolhan suryong]. The issue of attaching vital significance to ideological [word indistinct] elucidated in his recent work is a universal truth not only socialist countries, but all countries that are building new societies, should adhere to. He concluded by wishing the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il longevity and good health.

Kim Pyong-sik Meets Zairian Visitor

SK1808215295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1519 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 18 (KCNA) — Kim Pyong-sik, vice-president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, met and had a friendly talk with the visiting delegation of the Transitional Parliament of Zaire-the Higher Council of the Republic led by Anzuluni Bembe Isilonyonyi, acting president of the parliament and its first vice-president, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

On the same day Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Central Committee of the Social Democratic Party of Korea, met and had a friendly talk with Sadakuni Takaya, general secretary of the Kyoto Japan-Korea Society for Scientific and Cultural Interchange, and his party.

Kim Chong-il Talk Stresses Ideological Work

SK2108061395 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2232 GMT 20 Aug 95

[Unattributed talk: "Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is Essential Demand of the Working Class Party"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In his immortal classical work, "Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is the Essential Demand in Carrying Out the Socialist Cause," the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out: Grasping ideology as the basic factor, the working class party should give priority to ideological work over all other works. Only by doing so can it fulfill its mission and duties as the guiding political organization creating the cause of popular masses for independence.

The thesis put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is the most just idea which was set forth based on scientific insight into the essence and missions of the working class party.

The ideological work of the working class party assumes that the ideological and theoretical work, which deepens and develops the socialist ideology according to the demand of the developing time and revolution. This work, which assumes the ideological indoctrination work as its essential content, is an important work which cannot be separated from the activities and the struggle of the party for the popular masses' cause for independence.

The issue of giving priority to ideological work is a precedence issue for founding, strengthening and developing the working class party.

General speaking, the party is a political organization of people united on the basis of a common ideology and ideal.

The party of the working class is to carry out all struggles and activities by assuming the revolutionary ideology of the leader [suryong] — the revolutionary idea of the working class — as the only guideline.

Without ideological work, the working class party cannot be founded, nor can it be strengthened or developed. This is clearly shown in the historic course of the foundation, strengthening, and development of the working class party.

The party of the working class was organized at an early date based on the revolutionary ideology which was put forward to reflect the demand of the working class, which emerged in the stage of history as an independent political force amidst capitalism's constant development.

Since then, the party of the working class has expanded its ranks and has been strengthened organizationally and politically in the course of arming the broad range of the masses with the revolutionary idea of the working class.

The firmness, intensification, and development of the party of the working class are to be ensured by the ideological work. The indomitability of a party lies on the firmness of its ideological foundation.

When all party members are firmly armed with the revolutionary idea of struggle and united as one, the party will be able to win victory all the time by overcoming all trials and difficulties.

Such ideological and mental unity by the party of the working class forms the basis for the most solid unity when the party constantly deepens and develops the socialist ideology in compliance with the demand of the developing time and revolution and firmly arms the party members with this ideology and when the party members become firmly united with one ideology and one intent after keenly realizing the justness and invincibility of their party's idea and cause.

If the working class party fails to give priority to ideological work, party members cannot have firm faith in their party's ideology — the socialist ideology — and will waver and be disturbed. As a result, the party will not be able to maintain its life as a united organization. This is a solemn truth shown in the practical situation of parties that collapsed from failure to satisfactorily carry out ideological work.

Giving priority to the ideological work is the essential demand of the working class' party in fulfilling its mission and duties.

The party's historic mission is to accomplish the independence of the popular masses by eliminating various forms of domination and subjugation.

For the working class party to successfully carry out this mission, it should grasp ideology as the basic factor and give priority to ideological work. This is because the revolutionary idea is the party's mighty weapon and ideological work is the unique method of activities for the working class party.

Unlike bourgeois political parties which only rely on materials and power of authority, the working class party needs to arm the popular masses with an independent idea and consciousness relying on the revolutionary idea's unitariness, righteousness, might, and superiority. The working class party should lead the revolution and construction by uniting the popular masses.

Herein lies the unique character and method of activities differentiating the working class party from various bourgeois and opportunistic political parties.

For the working class party to precisely lead the independent cause of the popular masses, it should show a rightful direction and method of struggle to them. This is to be realized by ideological work.

Only when the working class party shows the clear goal, method, strategy and tactics of the struggle to the popular masses by giving priority to ideological work and by deepening and developing the socialist idea in conformity with the demand of the developing time and revolution, can it prevent the socialist idea from stagnating or needing regeneration.

The mission of the working class party to organize and mobilize a broad range of popular masses to the struggle to carry out the cause of independence cannot be achieved without ideological work.

The most powerful method for inspiring the popular masses to the revolution and construction is to arm them with revolutionary ideas and to strengthen their ideological work with a view to inspiring their ideology and zeal.

One cannot precisely inspire the masses with a material method or administrative means. The revolutionary idea of the working class is the most just idea reflecting the demand of the times and popular masses. It has a great tractive force.

However, this does not mean that the popular masses will accept the idea of the working class of their own accord and will rise in the revolution and construction with their consciousness awakened.

The greatest love of the popular masses by the working class party is to arm them with the consciousness of independence by properly carrying out the ideological work. Therefore, one should satisfactorily carry out the ideological work to deepen and develop the socialist ideology and to arm the popular masses with socialist ideology. Herein lies the revolutionary mission of the working class party which serves the popular masses.

The idea of the immortal work on giving priority to ideological work by the working class party by grasping the ideology as a basic factor is of great theoretical and practical significance.

Thanks to the idea of the immortal work, a basic guideline was provided to build, strengthen and develop the revolutionary party which has achieved the ideological and mental unity and cohesion based on one revolutionary idea -- the leader's [suryong] idea.

Thanks to this idea, in particular, a clear road was elucidated for the working class party to fulfill its mission and duty as the guiding political organization which raises the consciousness of popular masses with ideological weapons and organizes and mobilizes them to the revolution and construction.

Paper Warns Against Misuse of Ideology

SK1908104795 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1028 GMT 19 Aug 95

["Ideological, Cultural Channels Must Be Under Party's Leadership" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 19 (KCNA) — As the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il said, ideological and cultural channels will be used as counterrevolutionary instruments if they depart from the guidance and control of the working-class party in socialist society. This is proved by the situation in those countries where capitalism has revived, says NODONG SINMUN today.

The author of the article titled "Ideological, Cultural Channels Will Be Used as Counterrevolutionary Instruments If They Depart From Party's Control" says:

In socialist society, the media, art and literature and all other ideological and cultural channels must fully serve the purpose of defending and advancing socialism to meet the masses' desire for independence, under the party's leadership. To this end, they must be under the guidance and control of the party. Only then can they truly serve to defend and accomplish socialism and creditably discharge their mission and role as powerful ideological weapons.

In some countries which were building socialism in the past, renegade socialists and reactionaries took ideological and cultural channels into their own hands and used them to attack socialism.

In the former Soviet Union, they used crafty methods to put ideological and cultural channels out of the control of the working-class party. One of the methods is "glasnost."

The traitors to socialism also privatised these channels and guide them to attack socialism.

The ideological and cultural channels which departed from the guidance and control of the party and turned into counterrevolutionary instruments played a big role in destroying socialism and restoring capitalism in some countries.

Without the party's guidance and control, revolutionary ideological and cultural channels of the working class cannot exist and their fighting efficiency is inconceivable.

This is the main reason that these channels must be under the working-class party's guidance and control.

Anniversary of Article on Party-Building Noted

SK2008084595 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0821 GMT 20 Aug 95

["Important Work Indicating How To Build Chuche Party, State and Armed Forces" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 20 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN today runs an article to mark 50 years since the great leader President Kim Il-song published his work "On Building the Party, State and Armed Forces in the Liberated Homeland" on August 20, 1945.

The author of the article says:

This is a very important work which was instrumental in brilliantly accomplishing the historic cause of building the party, state and Armed Forces. It served as a great revolutionary banner in the building of a prosperous country.

The work contains the necessity of the cause of building the party, state and Armed Forces, concrete tasks and ways of completing the cause and all other theoretical and practical matters to successfully fulfil the three tasks.

The work is of historic significance. It served as a highly important guide to successfully accomplish the historic cause of building a new-type revolutionary party of the working class guided by the chuche idea. It suggested the chuche-based line of state- building and indicated a correct way of building a genuine people's state. It laid down the line of building regular revolutionary Armed Forces and provided a firm guarantee to strengthen the People's Army into an invincible army.

Today our party is famous as a glorious chuche-type revolutionary party which takes the chuche idea as the guiding principle; conducts revolutionary activities independently and creatively in accordance with the interests of its people and the specific conditions of its country; has a firm monolithic ideological system established throughout the party; is united as firm as a rock on the basis of the chuche idea; has unbreakable relations with the popular masses; and fights to accomplish the chuche revolutionary cause by enhancing their role.

Our country has been built into a powerful socialist state of chuche which fully exercises its sovereignty and enjoys absolute support and trust from the masses. This is because President Kim Il-song's chuche-based line of nation-building has been implemented to the letter.

The DPRK founded by President Kim Il-song is steadily growing in strength under the wise leadership of respected Comrade Kim Chong-il, decisively smashing the maneuverings of the imperialists.

Our People's Army is holding fast to the president's chuche-based line of army-building under the wise leadership of respected Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il. So, it remains the great Comrade Kim Il-song's army forever.

Our people will uphold the president as the eternal sun of chuche, strengthen their party, state and Army and make them shine with his august name under the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Radio Reviews Taedong River Flood Prevention

SK2108022495 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
0430 GMT 18 Aug 95

["Questions and Answers" between Yun Tae-il, director of the Lock Gate Management Bureau of the Marine Transportation Ministry, and station reporter Kim

Chang-myong on the subject "The Taedong River Lock Gates Completely Prevented Flood Damages"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kim] How are you?

[Yun] How are you?

[Kim] There has been heavy rain throughout the country.

[Yun] Yes, such heavy rain was rare in recent years. It really rained heavily across the country. Particularly, it rained heavily in the Taedong River basin from 26 July till yesterday. The entire area of the Taedong River saw an unprecedented heavy rainfall, including 800 mm in Maengsan and 839 mm in Tokchon. It rained almost every day and the water level of the Taedong River drastically grew. Such a flood was rare in recent years. Failing to properly control the flood would have caused a higher water level of the Taedong River and an inevitable flood damage. However, the lock gates and power plants were excellently built under the wise leadership of the fatherly leader and the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il, and the heavy flow of the Taedong River was scientifically handled with modern facilities.

[Kim] All work sites in charge of lock gate management must have been busy with the heavy rain.

[Yun] We did not do much. The lock gate management functionaries contributed to protecting Pyongyang from flood and preventing inundation in cultivated land, while benefiting various sectors of the people's economy. The management bureau received the forecast report of heavy rain in the Taedong River basin and prepared a systematic plan to control the flood. We analyzed the current of the Taedong River and adjusted the load of the lock gates based on a computer-simulated flow program. We sent the functionaries to the field to command the battle.

There was heavy rain between 7 and 8 August. We calculated that over 13,000 tonnes of water per second would run through the Mirim Lock Gate. We lowered the gates and took steps to control the water flow. It rained heavily for a month, but we were able to safely control the flood. In the course of battling against the flood, we have become better aware of the great vitality of the farsighted plans of the fatherly leader and the respected and beloved general, who built many lock gates in advance along the Taedong River and other small and big rivers and streams in the country. The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il built lock gates and various facilities along rivers and streams and said that properly managing them can prevent flood damages and develop the country. The lock gates along the Taedong River were excellently built under the wise leadership of the respected and beloved general, who wanted to brilliantly implement the fatherly leader's farsighted idea on lock gates. The construction of the lock gates along the Taedong River and the computerized flood control is another proud achievement in the struggle to tame and reform rivers and mountains of the fatherland in conformity with mankind's ideals and demands.

[Kim] The prevention of damage from the recent unprecedented heavy and continuous rain can, of course, be attributed to the efforts of the functionaries of the Lock Gate Management Bureau, but it is more a brilliant fruition of the wise leadership of the fatherly leader and the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il, who regard people as heavens.

[Yun] The achievement is the outcome of the wise leadership of the fatherly leader and the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, and an expression of the high loyalty of the functionaries, scientists, and technicians of the Lock Gate Management Bureau, who are determined to glorify our party's achievement for thousands of ages, toward the respected and beloved general.

Prior to the liberation, there had been countless casualties and loss of properties in the Taedong River and its branch Potong River under the Japanese imperialists' rule. With the farsighted and extraordinary wisdom, the fatherly leader and the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il unfolded a brilliant plan to control the water of the Taedong River, and wisely led the work to reform mother nature. Under the wise leadership of the great leader and the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il, a big hydraulic power plant in Taedong River, the lock gates in Sunchon River, Songchon River, Ponghwa River, and Midun, and the world's renowned Sohae Lock Gate were built to generate power and safely control flood. We firmly resolve to normalize at a high level the lock gate management, which reflects the achievement of the leadership of the great leader and the respected and beloved general, and wage a vigorous struggle to scientifically develop and modernize the water control and command system, and resolve to work according to the great general's intention and leadership.

Yonggwang No. 1 Power Plant Begins Operating

SK2108092795 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Functionaries, party members, and workers in Yonggwang County, who are vigorously carrying out the struggle to implement the party's revolutionary economic strategies by upholding the party Central Committee's slogans, have built the Yonggwang No. 1 power plant, thus opening new prospects for smoothly meeting the county's demand for electric power.

Generators Nos. 1 and 2 of the power plant, which was built in the middle of an irrigation waterway where the clean water of the Chongchon River flows into the Paengni plain in Hamhung, are now producing electricity after trial runs.

Once in full operation, the power plant's electric power will guarantee that the county receives lighting, will help operate the 17 local industrial plants, which produce cement, building material, food, sauces, and paper plants, and will provide heating to various public buildings, such as the people's hospitals of the Army, inns, nurseries, and kindergartens.

Report Highlights Site of Kim Il-song Speeches

SK1808215195 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1504 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, August 18 (KCNA) — Hamhung situated in the central coastal area of South Hamgyong Province in the northeastern part of Korea is one of large industrial cities.

The great leader President Kim Il-song gave on-the-spot guidance to the city about 90 times in his lifetime from 1946, the year after the country was liberated.

Under his on-the-spot guidance and wise leadership, the city has played a big role in the province's economic development with modern chemical, machine-building, building material and light industries. The centrally-controlled industry takes 87 percent in the city's industrial development.

Hamhung is the centre of chemical industry.

In the city there are the February 8 vinalon complex dependent on domestic materials and technology, the Hungnam fertilizer complex and other large chemical bases and several minor chemical factories.

They produce more than 1,000 kinds of chemical goods including acid, alkali, agricultural medicines, medicaments, carbide, plastics and synthetic fibre.

The city's machine-building industry, which started its development after the liberation of the country, takes a big share in the manufacture of ordered equipment in the country.

The Yongsong associated machinery bureau has turned into a large machine-building centre equipped with perfect structures such as processing, assembling and completion.

It has manufactured 8-metre turning lathes, 3,000-ton press, 6,000-ton press, 10,000-ton press, large machine tools and ordered equipment for the expansion project of the February 8 vinalon complex, the Musan-Chongjin long-distance concentrates transport pipeline project and the long- distance belt conveyer project in Unryul.

It is now manufacturing high-pressure compressors, large hydraulic and thermal turbins, air compressors and other ordered equipment such as metallurgical, building material, chemical, generating and mining equipment.

Hamhung has also a modern woollen textile mill, a knitted goods factory, a silk mill, a footwear factory, a large cornstarch factory, a meat processing factory and hundreds of minor local industry factories.

South Korea

Seoul, Washington To Continue Cigarette Talks

SK1908020495 Seoul YONHAP in English
0141 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 19 (YONHAP) — South Korea and the United States will hold a second round of talks Tuesday to discuss revisions to the Record of Understanding (ROU) which regulates the sale of American cigarettes in the country, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Saturday.

The first such talks were held in Washington July 31-Aug. 1.

The South Korean delegation to the two-day Washington meeting, consisting of officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance and Economy, and Health and Welfare, will attempt to revise the ROU so the country will not require the United States approval before it can raise the 460-won tariff currently imposed on each pack of both domestically produced and imported cigarettes, according to the spokesman.

Seoul also wants to impose stiffer regulations on cigarette advertising in the country, including a ban on cigarette vending machines in areas frequented by minors and the attachment of warning labels on the front of cigarette packs.

The current ROU stipulates that warning labels must appear only on the side of the packs.

The Seoul government will introduce on Sept. 1 a national health promotion law that will restrict the scope of cigarette advertising and replace the current specific commercial tariff system with an ad valorem tax.

"The recent decision by the Clinton administration to declare tobacco a 'drug' apparently fostered an atmosphere in which the outcome of the cigarette talks in Washington could be favorable to the Korean side," said Chang Ki-ho, director-general of the Ministry's International Trade Bureau.

U.S. Opposes Tobacco Taxes as Trade Barrier

SK1908151095 Seoul MUNHWA ILBO in Korean 19 Aug 95 p 3

[Editorial: "We Hope for Wise Measures for ROK-U.S. Negotiations on the Tobacco Issue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One absurdity brings about another absurdity. The United States has strongly opposed our efforts to revise an ROK-U.S. memorandum of understanding on tobacco trade that was concluded unfavorably to us in 1988. However, the U.S. position has been faced with a dilemma since President Clinton on 10 August designated nicotine as a "drug" and announced measures to restrict the sale of tobacco to juveniles and to control smoking. As President Clinton's announcement weakened its justification to oppose our side's demand for revising the unequal agreement, based on which it is trying to infringe upon our sovereignty to levy taxes, the United States has insisted anew that "the ROK is creating trade barriers aimed at controlling the sale of foreign tobacco."

The United States insists: "When foreign tobacco is distributed to ROK tobacco shops in proportion to the amount of their domestic tobacco sales, the internal revenue of ROK local autonomous governments from foreign tobacco can increase only when the sales of domestic tobacco increase." That is, the United States absurdly regards this system as a trade barrier aimed at controlling the sale of foreign tobacco.

The measures to restrict juveniles' smoking announced by President Clinton include a prohibition against tobacco vending machines, a prohibition against posting commercial advertisements for tobacco in schools or within a radius of 300 meters of a school, and a prohibition against promoting tobacco sales through sports events, such as distributing shirts or bags printed with a certain brand of tobacco. The measures reflect, to a large degree, our side's demand put forward during ROK-U.S. talks on the revision of the memorandum of understanding on tobacco trade held in August.

We cannot help but feel that the new U.S. insistence on mentioning trade barriers is aimed at curbing the ROK's will to restore its right to impose tariffs prior to the next round of negotiations slated for 22 August in Washington. Our government plans to have its policy of converting the existing specific commercial tariff system into a system of imposing higher taxes on expensive tobaccos adopted at the forthcoming Washington negotiations. The United States' "trade barrier logic" is regarded as an expedient of its self-contradiction.

If we fail to place our measures to restrict sales and advertisement of foreign tobacco on the agenda for the 22 August talks, the law on promoting the people's health will be a "dead law." If we are unable to protect the health of the people for ourselves under a situation in which the U.S. President personally declared a war against tobacco to protect the health of juveniles, it would be incomprehensible nonsense. The government should do its best to cope with the upcoming negotiations on the revision of the memorandum of understanding by preparing thorough plans and strategies.

'Ulchi-Focus Lens' Exercise To Begin 21 Aug

SK2008024495 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Aug 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The annual Korea-U.S. joint command-post exercise, Ulchi-Focus Lens, will be conducted from tomorrow through Sept. 1.

Lens '95 is the 20th in the series of regularly scheduled, routine training exercise, officials at the Defense Ministry and the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC) said yesterday.

In addition to South Korean and U.S. troops, South Korean government officials, reserve forces and civil defense corps members will participate in the drill, said the officials.

Daily Reviews Alleged Coup Attempts in North

SK2008060095 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 20 Aug 95 p 14

[Article by Han Ki-hung: "The 'Anti-Kim Chong-il Tendency' in the Military Is Serious"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kim Chong-il, holder of North Korea's real power, has been ruling North Korea as the supreme commander of the Armed Forces without succeeding to the post of the North Korean president and party general secretary for 13 months since Kim Il-song died on 8 July last year.

Although he seldom appears on official occasions, he makes extra efforts to visit Army units, thus expressing his special interest in the Army.

However, the fact that Kim Chong-il visits Army units intensively without officially succeeding to power is viewed by some people as proof that he has not been able to firmly control the Army.

The NAEWOE [TONGSIN] compiled a report on six plots to remove Kim Chong-il which occurred in the North Korean Army in the 1990's based on information and intelligence recently gathered by the relevant authorities.

The gist of the plot incidents follow in chronological order.

1. In January 1992, three senior officers, including a regiment commander, and 10 officials from the State Security Department plotted a coup d'etat out of complaints about Kim Chong-il's succession to the post of the supreme commander of the Army. They were executed because the plot was uncovered in advance.

2. In April 1992, some 30 general-grade officers, including Col. Gen. An Chong-ho, deputy chief of staff of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces, and the deputy commander of the Seventh Army Corps stationed in Hamhung attempted an unsuccessful assassination of Kim Chong-il. This was uncovered in March 1993. Col Gen. An and the deputy commander of the Seventh Army Corps were shot to death, and other general-grade officers fled to Russia seeking political asylum.

3. In December 1992, a coup d'etat was plotted by those who were led by a general-grade officer from the Guard General Bureau, and all the participants in the plot were executed.

4. In June 1994, some 10 officers from the Kanggon Military Officers General School plotted to assassinate Kim Chong-il. They were arrested and burnt at the stake publicly in the school ground.

5. In December 1994, fire was exchanged between the followers of Kim Chong-il and the followers of Kim Pyong-il, his half brother, in which eight major figures died and Kim Pyong-il's followers were repressed by force.

6. In April 1995, an intelligence agent attempted to attack Kim Chong-il. He was arrested on the spot, and this incident led to the reinforcement of guard for Kim's security.

Because North Korea is a thoroughly closed society, it is hard to confirm the truth or accurate details of these coup attempts.

However, Mr. Kang Myong-to, 36, son-in-law of North Korean Premier Kang Song-san who defected to the South last year, testifies in his memoirs *Pyongyang Dreams of Defection* that the coup attempt in no. 2 above was true.

According to Mr. Kang, Col. Gen. An and others who studied in the former Soviet Union, for the purpose of taking power, planned to kill Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il at the reviewing stand with tank guns during the military parade on 25 April 1992, the 60th anniversary of the founding of the North Korean People's Army. The coup aborted because they failed to mobilize tanks.

This was revealed when a former KGB operative released this information to a senior official who was in charge of Soviet affairs in the State Security Department.

The relevant authorities of the ROK Government believe that a considerable number of complaints have spread within the North Korean Army about Kim Chong-il's exercise of power over the Army although he has no military career at all.

Nevertheless, on the first anniversary of Kim Il-song's death, the North Korean military pledged to be absolutely and wholeheartedly loyal to Kim Chong-il.

North Must 'Send Signal' for Talks To Resume

SK1908023095 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 19 Aug 95 p 1

[By reporter Choe Won-ki]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is expected that the third round of talks between the South-North authorities, which was suspended due to the Samson Venus ship abduction case, will be postponed indefinitely as long as North Korea does not propose to South Korea the resumption of the talks between September and October.

An official of the National Unification Board pointed out on 18 August: "The third round of talks were suspended after North Korea notified us of its postponement due to the Samson Venus ship abduction case. If the talks are to be resumed, the North side must send a signal first."

The government's position can be summarized as follows: first, the proposal must be made by North Korea; then, talks can resume. It is believed that the government will maintain a wait-and-see position until 10 October, when Kim Chong-il is expected to officially complete his succession of power.

North 'Forced' Seaman To Make False Confession

SK1908053095 Seoul YONHAP in English 0515 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 19 (YONHAP) — A South Korean seaman held in North Korea for eight days on charges he illegally photographed the port of Chongjin took pictures of the North Korean port purely out of curiosity, a joint police-Agency for National Security Planning investigation team announced Saturday.

The first officer Yi Yang-chon of the Samson Venus which entered Chongjin port on Aug. 1 carrying rice for North Korea, however, was forced by the North to make a false confession saying that he took the pictures because he was ordered to by the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP), the investigation team said.

This fact was revealed by an investigation of all 21 members of the Samson Venus' crew who were detained by the North Koreans for eight days before being released Monday, according to the team.

Yi was caught photographing a steam locomotive from the deck of the vessel on two occasions around 10 AM on Aug. 2.

He was also suspected by two North Koreans of taking 14 pictures of mountains, inns, lighthouses and outdoor storage areas.

On Aug. 5, Yi was taken by three North Korean officials to an inn and forced to confess that he took the photographs in return for a promise by the NSP that he would be promoted to skipper of the Samson Venus if he did, the investigation team said.

The North Koreans punched a table and threatened him into confessing that he is a member of the NSP or that he was instructed by them.

Yi has taken over 500 photos of foreign countries while traveling as a third and second officer aboard ships since 1982, according to the investigation team.

Inter-Korean Trade Declines in Jul

SK1808083395 Seoul YONHAP in English 0749 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 18 (YONHAP) — Last month's inter-Korean trade topped 19,652,000 U.S. dollars in 101 deals on the basis of government approval, representing a sharp drop of 44.3 percent below the previous month and an 18.7-percent fall from the same month of last year.

According to official figures released by the National Unification Ministry Friday, imports from the North in the month of July totaled 17,249,000 dollars in 48 deals, a 39.2 percent slide from the previous month, while exports to the North were recorded at 2,403,000 dollars in 53 cases, or a 65.2 percent drop from June.

Although inter-Korean trade saw a decrease in July, the total trade approved during the first seven months of the year totaled 194,908,000 dollars in 757 deals, representing a 66.8 percent hike from the same period last year.

Meanwhile, North Korea's approved processing-on-commission trade with South Korea in July reached 443,000 U.S. dollars in 12 cases. This shows a sharp reduction of 91.5 percent from June. But such trade approved from January through July this year topped 16,497,000 dollars, a 53.9 percent rise over the same period last year.

Japan 'Considering' Dropping Rice Aid to North

SK1908094995 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0704 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the remarks on the rice issue made by Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Worker's Party of North Korea, Japan is reportedly prudently considering countermeasures, such as the suspension of its supply of additional rice to North Korea, in cooperation with our country.

In an ROK-Japan meeting of Asian directors general held this morning, Ryozo Kato, Japanese director general in charge of Asian affairs at the Japanese Foreign Ministry, said that Japan will take inter-Korean relations thoroughly into consideration in taking measures concerning the rice issue and will prudently cope with it through close cooperation with the ROK.

In this regard, Director General Kim Ha-chung of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau stated: The Japanese Government is now studying the truth of Kim Yong-sun's remarks. It is expected that if Kim Yong-sun's remarks are confirmed to be true, Japan will take strong countermeasures, such as the repeal of its decision to supply additional rice to North Korea, unless North Korea makes an official apology.

Regarding Japanese Prime Minister Murayama's statement expressing remorse for its past, Director General Kato promised in today's meeting to make efforts to make visible solutions to pending Japan- ROK issues, such as enfranchising Koreans residing in Japan to local governments, based on a correct cognizance of its past.

Kong No-myong To Attend Takeo Fukuda's Funeral

SK2108072995 Seoul YONHAP in English 0637 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 21 (YONHAP) — Foreign Minister Kong No-myong will visit Japan to attend a funeral ceremony honoring former Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda on Sept. 5 when he returns from a tour of five South American countries, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday.

The funeral ceremony will be held on Sept. 6.

While in Japan until Sept. 7, Kong will meet with Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and Foreign

Minister Yohei Kono to discuss bilateral issues, the spokesman said.

Kim Ha-chung Meets With Japanese Counterpart

SK1908020595 Seoul YONHAP in English 0143 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 19 (YONHAP) — Director-general Kim Ha-chung of the Foreign Ministry's Asian affairs Bureau met Saturday with his Japanese counterpart Ryozo Kato to discuss bilateral political and economic relations, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The new Japanese director-general in charge of Asian affairs flew to Seoul Friday for a three-day stay here where he is scheduled to meet with officials from the Foreign Ministry and other government agencies, the spokesman said.

Kato took office on Aug. 4. He has previously served as consul-general of the Japanese consulate in Shanghai, China, and director of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's treaty department.

Seoul 'Will Push' for Consulate in Shenyang

SK1908014995 Seoul YONHAP in English 0127 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 19 (YONHAP) — South Korea and China will hold consular affair bureau chief meetings Wednesday to discuss the signing of an extradition agreement, the establishment of a South Korean consulate-general in the northeastern Chinese city of Shenyang and other issues, according to a Foreign Ministry official Saturday.

During the two-day meeting slated for Beijing, overseas residents and Director-general of the Consular Affairs Bureau Kang Ung-sik will push for the establishment of a Korean consulate-general's office in Shenyang to effectively serve the ever increasing number of Korean tourists and businessmen in that area of the communist country, the official said.

China, however, has refused to allow the establishment of a Korean consulate-general in Shenyang citing relations with North Korea, which maintains a consulate-general there, the North's only one in China.

Beijing meanwhile is expected to raise the issue of an extradition agreement to address the problem of Chinese nationals who flee to South Korea after committing crimes in China, the official said.

The Beijing meeting will also address ways to deal with illegal Chinese fishing in the West (Yellow) Sea and the issuance of multiple visas.

Reaction to PRC Nuclear Tests 'Lukewarm'

SK1908080895 Seoul MUNHWA ILBO in Korean 19 Aug 95 p 1

[By reporter Yi Pyong-son]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government's response regarding the PRC's two recent nuclear tests has been exceedingly lukewarm, and certain political circles are voicing criticism of this low-profile diplomatic response toward the PRC.

The criticism derives from the public view that the ROK Government is limiting itself to studying the PRC's intention even though the Korean peninsula will be affected by the PRC's nuclear tests.

In particular, while Japan appears to be moving towards taking sanctions against the PRC by reducing grant-type aid, and countries around the world, including neighboring Asian countries, are all criticizing and protesting the PRC's nuclear tests, the ROK Government, which is the nearest neighbor, has only issued one statement which expresses "concern" and "regret" at the events.

The public notes that in contrast to the way it actively blocked North Korea's nuclear development, the government's attitude in the handling of this event lacks consistency and equity.

On 17 August, 10 hours after the PRC had conducted the underground nuclear test, the government finally revealed its official position through a statement by So Tae-won, spokesman of the Foreign Ministry.

The statement merely expressed concern by saying: "The PRC's nuclear test violates the basic spirit of the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and also runs counter to the chairman's statement of the Association of South East Asian Nations regional forum which called for an end to all nuclear testing. It also strongly hopes that the PRC's nuclear test and the recent decision by France to resume nuclear test will not obstruct international efforts for an early conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty."

It was learned that along with this, the Foreign Ministry had examined measures for calling in the PRC ambassador to the ROK to register a protest regarding such nuclear tests, but that it was put off for the following reasons: With no clear means for sanctions against the PRC, causing undue diplomatic friction would be futile; aggravating the PRC, which has a great influence on the North would not help the security situation on the Korean peninsula; and Ambassador Zhang Tingyan is currently on vacation.

All opposition parties criticized the government for its lukewarm countermeasures and its low-profile diplomatic attitude. Sol Hun, deputy spokesman of the National Congress for New Politics, and An Song-yol, spokesman of the United Liberal Democrats Party, stated: "The government authorities are not making a protest regarding the nuclear test of a neighboring country and are not even taking any countermeasures regarding this matter. This most obviously reveals their apathy toward the nuclear issue which threatens man's existence, and reveals their lack of diplomatic skill. The government authorities must immediately make a protest to the PRC Government and urge for the suspension of the nuclear tests."

Article Criticizes PRC Abduction Investigation

SK1908103095 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 19 Aug 95 p 5

[Report by Pak Che-kyun]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been 40 days since Pastor An Sung-un was abducted by North Korea on 9 July. PRC public security officials started investigating the case upon receipt of the report that Pastor An was taken by some North Koreans.

After 40 days, there still has been no result. Rumors in Yanbian had it that the Jilin Provincial Public Security Office arrested one of the kidnappers. The ROK Government has yet to receive an interim investigation report from the PRC.

When ROK Foreign Minister Kong No-myong met with PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen at the ministerial conference of the ASEAN Regional Forum held in Brunei earlier this month, he personally asked for an expedited settlement. ROK Vice Foreign Minister Yi Si-yong also called in PRC Ambassador Zhang Tingyan and strongly asked for an early settlement. The ROK Government has called for the PRC's attention to the abduction case at every available opportunity.

The PRC's uniform answer was: "The central government has not received any report from the Jilin Provincial Public Security Office. Jilin Provincial authorities are in the process of the investigation, and we will notify you as soon as the results are available."

This is the PRC's unique "slow, slow" attitude. The ROK authorities would have completed the investigation and would have even completed follow-up measures in 40 days.

ROK Foreign Ministry officials are anxious about the PRC's attitude, but explained: "It takes time to conduct a thorough investigation." As the case is so delicate, the PRC is trying to derive a result from the investigation that cannot be impeached by either South or North Korea.

If the PRC were to announce that Pastor An was actually abducted, it should possess impeccable proof. There are rumors that North Korea refused a request by PRC public security authorities to interview Pastor An.

Another factor for the PRC's slowness is analyzed to be the expected effect on the PRC's relations with the ROK and North Korea following the announcement of the results of the investigation. An announcement confirming the "abduction" will obviously have a negative effect on North Korean-PRC relations, and a reverse result on ROK-PRC relations.

This is the PRC's position. From the ROK Government's point of view nothing has been done in the 40 days following the "illegal abduction" of a ROK pastor.

Addressing the National Assembly session on 16 August, Vice Foreign Minister Yi Si-yong said: "The government is working on a ROK-PRC consular agreement to prevent the kidnapping of ROK people in the PRC." However, it is a well-known fact that discussions on the consular agreement are to change visas from singular to multiple issuance, and has nothing to do with the prevention of abduction to the North. The ROK Government should more directly and strongly urge the PRC to settle the matter, rather than closing the barn door after losing the cow.

First Nuclear Power Export Contract Confirmed

95P60241A Beijing ZHONGGUO HE GONGYE BAO [CHINA NUCLEAR INDUSTRY NEWSPAPER] in Chinese 19 Jul 95 p 2

[Unattributed article: "ROK Sells China a Reactor Pressure Vessel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ROK has confirmed its first nuclear power export contract: it will manufacture a reactor pressure vessel for the Qinshan Phase-2 Nuclear Power Project (2 x 600-NW pressurized-water reactor nuclear power generating units) now underway in China. This contract, valued at US$20 million, has been jointly signed by the China Nuclear Energy Industry Corporation (CNEIC) and the ROK's Hanjung Group [also known as Korea Heavy Industries & Construction Co. (KHIC)] and Kohap Group. Hanjung will independently manufacture the first reactor pressure vessel, while the second pressure vessel will be jointly built by the Nuclear Power Institute of China (NPIC) per its technical standards and by CNEIC, and will be shipped by 1998. Kohap will provide financial and sales support. This trade deal will be supported by a line of export credit established at the Korea Development Bank.

Kong No-myong Departs for South America 21 Aug

SK2108062995 Seoul YONHAP in English 0607 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 21 (YONHAP) — Foreign Minister Kong No-myong Monday embarked on a tour of five South American countries where he will seek support for South Korea's bid to join the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

While visiting Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina and Brazil through Sept. 7, Kong will discuss ways to enhance cooperation with the South American countries in international forums, according to Foreign Ministry Spokesman So Tae-won.

It will be the first visit to South America by a South Korean foreign minister since 1983.

Meeting with leaders from the five South American countries, the foreign minister will elaborate on South Korea's efforts to resume an inter-Korean dialogue and to implement the Geneva nuclear agreement reached between Pyongyang and Washington last October, according to So.

The ministry expects Kong's visit will help South Korean businesses expand trade and investment in South America which has been emerging as one of the country's important export markets since the early 1990s.

President, Na Ung-pae Give Unification Speeches

SK2108021295 Seoul YONHAP in English 0202 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 21 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam declared Monday that the Korean people unifying into one nation again "is just a matter of time and a historic inevitability."

Speaking at the inaugural session of the Seventh Advisory Council on Democratic and Peaceful Unification (ACDPU), Kim called on the people to further seek the power with which "we can play a leading role in the efforts for unification," noting that unification is no longer a distant and vague possibility but a realistic and necessary task facing the nation.

For this purpose, "We should build a model democratic society, where law and order are respected, and an advanced economy, in terms of technology and international competitiveness, so that we can accommodate our brothers and sisters in North Korea," he remarked.

Kim stressed the need for all the people, regardless of generational or social class differences, to prepare for the arrival of the unification era, ready to share with the citizens of North Korea any burden or sacrifice necessary to achieve unification.

"North Korea is at a crossroads — it must either continue its isolationist and confrontational policy or shift to an open-door, cooperative policy, but the North Koreans cannot hold onto their isolationist policy for much longer because of their mounting economic difficulties," he said.

Kim then called on the North Koreans to opt for an open-door policy for the sake of political stability.

Noting the importance of building mutual trust between the two halves of the peninsula in order to improve inter-Korean relations, Kim said "The gate leading to the path of unification would open by itself if inter-Korean cooperation and exchange programs, based on mutual trust, develop."

But, he added that patience is important when dealing with the North Koreans.

Following President Kim's speech, Deputy Prime Minister and National Unification Minister Na Ung-pae delivered a keynote speech on the government's North Korea policy.

Attending the meeting were some 3,600 council members, provincial governors and big city mayors.

The council adopted a four-point resolution calling on North Korea to faithfully observe the basic South-North agreement on cooperation and reconciliation and the joint South-North declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, to hold inter-Korean talks on the separated family issue and to improve the human rights situation in the North.

Editorial Criticizes Government as 'Insensible'

SK2108061595 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 21 Aug 95 p 3

[Editorial: "The Government Does Not Even Feel Insulted"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The remarks on rice made by Kim Yong-sun, who is known to be charged with affairs related to foreign countries and the South, provoked Japan considerably. A man of influence in the North Korean regime, Kim Yong-sun described the Japanese rice aid to North Korea as "a tribute intended as an apology." As expected, the Japanese Government took offense. The Japanese Government's response was so serious that it is even thinking of giving up any additional rice aid to North Korea.

The North Korean authorities informed Japan, belatedly, that it would withdraw Kim Yong-sun's remarks, in an apparently anxious attempt to settle the issue quickly. However, with this, North Korea in fact admitted that Kim Yong-sun's remarks in his interview carried by MAL are true. This development is something that we should pay attention to, for Kim Yong-sun's interview contains remarks insulting to our government and people as well. Nevertheless, the officials concerned in the government are still insensible. They are so insensitive that we are led to doubt whether they are our government's officials. When rice aid to North Korea was proposed, our people supported and welcomed it out of compatriotic love and for humanitarian reasons. However, according to Kim Yong-sun's remarks, the persons in authority in North Korea have a totally different thought. They said: First, the North Korean food situation enjoys self-sufficiency, far from suffering from famine, so the rice from South Korea will be used for livestock or light industry. Second, the rice from the South is like an uninvited guest that was offered because Japan offered rice. Third, the South Korean offer of rice is comparable to the situation described by the proverb "when a goby jumps, a broom also jumps."

We are aware of the North Korean bluff. We can imagine the agony North Korea went through before deciding to receive rice from the South. However, we can hardly understand how North Korea can compare our people's good intentions to a broom. A man of common sense would never do such a thing. Moreover, while making a diplomatic gesture to Japan that it would withdraw Kim's remark, North Korea said nothing to South Korea.

With an evil-doer's audacity, North Korea detained the South's freighter carrying rice to the North and forced its crew member to confess that he had committed an act of espionage under the instruction of the Agency for National Security Planning. Moreover, with the date for resuming Beijing rice talks approaching, North Korea abducted an ROK pastor who was engaged in a missionary activity in China, and forced him to broadcast that he had defected to the North. However, a more serious problem is the government's attitude to cope with it. Without lodging any protest at all to Kim Yong-sun's insulting remarks and remaining silent, the government is just looking on Japan's tough stance.

In coping with Reverend An Sung-un's case, the government has not taken any diplomatic efforts worth mentioning, although 40 days have passed since the case occurred, relying only on the PRC authorities' promise to make their best efforts to investigate and inform the ROK of the result. We would question whether the government has some undisclosed plan or underhanded scheme making it impossible to propose to the North that the North come to the South and carry rice themselves to the North. Is the government suffering from hardening of the arteries? The government should know that North Korea will make little of a government that is incapable of even feeling humiliation.

Authorities Disagree on North's Rice Aid

SK2008030695 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 20 Aug 95 p 2

[By reporter Hong Yun-o]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been revealed that there is serious disagreement among high-ranking government authorities regarding the issue of providing rice to the North. Therefore, there is concern on whether the overall consistency on the policy toward the North can be maintained.

It was learned on 19 August that when Yi Sok-chae, vice finance and economy minister and senior delegate to the South-North rice talks, made an explanatory remark in connection with rice aid at the 17 August vice ministers meeting, some vice ministers strongly refuted him.

It was learned that, during the meeting, Vice Minister Yi had stated: "South-North dialogue such as the one on rice aid is progressing smoothly, however, there is an important matter but I cannot reveal what it is." It was also learned that he requested: "I hope that related ministries make public the background and basis of the rice aid, so that the people can understand it adequately."

It was learned that in this connection, Kim Mu-song, home affairs vice minister, brought forth a counterargument by saying: "The people's sentiment regarding the rice issue has worsened, to the degree that it is serious. Rice aid itself is good, but we must be more prudent in promoting it."

Also, Yi Kyong-chae, vice minister of public information, and some other vice ministers stated: "It seems that the people's general opinion has not been understood appropriately. We must once again contemplate the issue of providing rice."

Government authorities pointed out: "Disagreement during the vice ministers meeting exceeds the level that can frequently occur when exchanging opinions. It seems that there is a fundamental difference in opinion regarding the essence of the issue."

DLP Solons Urge Reconsideration of Rice Aid

SK1908051795 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 19 Aug 95 p 1

[By reporter Kim Min-pae]

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the government's measure of providing rice to North Korea and South-North rice negotiations, executive members of the Democratic Liberal Party who held a meeting on 18 August pointed out: "The government is ignoring not only the people's sentiments and emotions but even traditional diplomatic practice." They called for the method of providing rice to the North be reconsidered, and for the government to hold working-level officials responsible in connection with the rice issue. During the meeting, lawmaker Kim Yong-kwang urged this issue to be reconsidered by saying: "I think that there is a problem in the method in which we are providing rice to North Korea at a time when North Korea's party Secretary Kim Yong-sun is openly saying that there is no concern over rice and when issues on the Usong incident and the abduction of the KAL [Korea Airlines] crew members have not been resolved yet."

Lawmaker Pak Chong-su said: "North Korea has not thanked us yet for the rice we sent." He went on to criticize the inexperienced way in which negotiations with the North have been held. Negotiations to provide rice to the North progressed too rapidly, and, when the Samson Venus ship was detained in North Korea, there was not even a joint investigation but only acceptance of North Korea's demands. In particular, lawmaker Pak said: "We must make North Korea come and transport the rice by themselves, just like Japan is doing." Thus, he urged a change in the current way rice is being transported to North Korea.

Lawmaker Yi Ung-hui said: "I wonder whether the North Korean authorities expressed thanks for the rice we provided, whether the rice is being distributed to the North Korean people smoothly, and whether rotten rice has been supplied." He pointed out the confusion in the government negotiating delegation regarding the provision of rice to the North.

Na Ung-pae's Role in Rice Talks Viewed

SK2008072695 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 20 Aug 95 p 6

[By reporter Pak Chung-on]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 22 August, it will be six months since the "Na Ung-pae reunification ship" set sail. However, it has not been able to find an escape since it has been involved in a big commotion on the issue of providing rice to the North. Due to intensive criticism by the public opinion and the political circles, and wide differences of opinion with the "de facto powers" of Chongwadae [presidential offices], the "Na Ung-pae reunification ship" is capsizing.

Demands are being made for Deputy Prime Minister Na be held responsible for this matter — when in reality it is Chongwadae's responsibility — and it is said that the National Unification Board [NUB] is being alienated, but these comments have exceeded the customary offensive level. There is talk in some circles that Deputy Prime Minister Na may be used as a "scapegoat" aimed at appeasing the public opinion.

However, since the recent crisis was not brought about by Deputy Prime Minister Na and he has been assessed as having led the reunification and security team without much difficulty, the prevailing view is that it will be difficult to ask him to take direct responsibility. Moreover, it will not be easy for President Kim Yong-sam, who is badly wounded due to the inconsistent policy toward the North, to find a suitable person like Deputy Prime Minister Na at a time when the latter part of his presidency is approaching. Recently, the average term of office for the deputy prime minister in charge of reunification affairs has been only six months. Therefore, it will be a great burden for President Kim if the sixth deputy prime minister in charge of reunification affairs is replaced. Thus, it has been learned, that Chongwadae is planning to retain Deputy Prime Minister Na. Some believe that Deputy Prime Minister Na probably received such a promise from President Kim when they met on 18 August.

Deputy Prime Minister Na's predecessor was Kim Tok, who was fired just two months after he took office due to the "document by the Agency for National Security Planning on postponing the local autonomy elections" incident. Before the "rice crisis" was disclosed, Deputy Prime Minister Na was receiving relatively superior evaluation marks.

During the six months he has been in charge of reunification affairs, Deputy Prime Minister Na has not been able to open an epoch-making breakthrough in South-North relations, but rapid progress has been made in South-North exchange in nonpolitical fields. He actively dealt with the businessmen's visits to the North, which had deteriorated, and approved cooperative projects toward the North for the first time in the history of South-North exchange. He also allowed technicians from the South to visit the North. This, however, did not take place because of North Korea's refusal at the last moment. Approval for religionists to visit the North was won for the first time with the emergence of the Kim Yong- sam government. It seemed that the basis of the policy toward the North, the so-called "change through contacts," was taking root. This type of progress should be noted because it is a product of his clear course in the policy to improve South-North relations practically and gradually. In particular, his decision is significant in that it was a measure he took despite opposition from the hard-line forces attributing to the non-transparency of the nuclear issue, at a time when there was a subtle psychological warfare taking place between the South and North surrounding the issue of the North accepting the ROK-type light-water reactors.

However, the 26 May announcement on unconditional rice aid to North Korea and the rice agreement concluded in Beijing in late June shook the basis of this policy somewhat. People worrying about the "aftereffects" of the rice crisis are pointing out whether the hasty political motive to improve South-North relations will be a typical example of the policy toward the North during the last part of President Kim's term of office. Even experiencing such a situation, it seems that President Kim will not show much change in South-North relations. If this is the case, there is a high possibility that Chongwadae will stand at the forefront and not give practical power to Deputy Prime Minister Na, who is the one in charge of reunification affairs.

Deputy Prime Minister Na's change of heart in just one day on his intention to propose the replacement of the delegate to the rice talks reveals the actual situation straightforwardly. Under the situation in which aftereffects have been revealed one after another due to careless negotiations with the North, it was reasonable to discuss the replacement of the delegate to the talks. Nevertheless, Chongwadae had ignored his response regarding this matter at the National Assembly. As such, the anticipation that the policy toward the North should free itself from a "single incident" and take a position under the consistent principle of gradual improvement, has subsided.

Under the situation in which the NUB's role has been limited, Deputy Prime Minister Na's pending task at this time is to strengthen forces within the NUB and establish a position within the government. Along with this, the difficult task of how he plans to lead the third round of Beijing talks, in which its prospect is unclear, is awaiting him. This is because regardless of who initiates the talks, the deputy prime minister in charge of reunification affairs will be held responsible for the talks.

Dailies View Decision on Rice Talks Delegation

SK1908103795

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of editorials published in ROK vernacular dailies on 19 August on the sudden repeal of the government decision to replace the senior delegate to inter-Korean talks on the rice issue.

The moderate HANGUK ILBO carries on page 3 a 800-word editorial entitled "The Alienated National Unification Ministry." The editorial notes the government's abrupt revocation of its decision on the reshuffle of the negotiation team for inter-Korean rice talks has amplified the people's dissatisfaction and concerns about the government's policy on North Korea, concerns that have been growing because of "a series of serious incidents that occurred in the course of delivering rice to North Korea and the government's blunders made in the course of coping with the incidents, which cannot be overlooked." The editorial reports that Deputy Prime Minister for Unification Na Ung-pae's suggestion to replace Vice Finance and Economy Minister Yi Sok-chae with Vice National Unification Minister Song Yong-tae was turned down at an emergency meeting of the Unification and Security Coordination Council on 17 August. Pointing to the "continuous alienation of the National Unification Ministry from previous talks with North Korea," the editorial stresses: "Making policies on North Korea by government offices other than the National Unification Ministry or through a secret line cannot be regarded as a normal procedure for national administration." The editorial also stresses: "In view of the characteristics of the rice talks, which are political rather than economic, it is proper to nominate an experienced expert on North Korean affairs as senior delegate."

The moderate CHUNGANG ILBO carries on page 5 a 700-word editorial entitled "What Does the Ignorance of Deputy Prime Minister's Suggestion Mean?" The editorial regards the ignorance of the unification minister's suggestion as a serious matter, noting that "this has revealed the existence of disputes between the deputy prime minister and his nominator on North Korean policies." The editorial expresses concerns about the "inharmonious team work" for North Korean policies, and wonders "if Vice Minister Yi can continue to properly carry out his duty as senior delegate." The editorial then continues: "If a deputy prime minister's suggestion put forth openly at the National Assembly is turned down, the deputy prime minister cannot help but resign. Deputy Prime Minister Na has fallen into a shameful situation, in which it must be difficult for him to command his inferiors." The editorial concludes by recommending that the government dispatch a new senior delegate to the third round of inter-Korean authorities' talks in Beijing.

South Freighters To Deliver Rice to North

SK2008073895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0730 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 20 (YONHAP) — The government, dismissing the idea of chartering third-country vessels, has concluded to deliver the remainder of the 150,000 tons of rice aid to North Korea aboard South Korean freighters as before.

A government official said Sunday that as a means of preventing the recurrence of unexpected incidents like the one in which a South Korean rice-carrying vessel was forced to hoist the North Korean flag and the detention of another freighter, a formula for shipping the rice aboard third-country ships was studied. It has been concluded, however, to ship the remaining portion of the rice aid to the North with South Korean vessels.

In view of a huge sum of freight charges required in case foreign freighters are chartered, relevant administrative agencies opposed the idea on grounds that it would bring about a waste in foreign exchange, the official said.

Kim Yong-sam To Give 'Special' Speech 24 Aug

SK1908051695 Seoul MUNHWA ILBO in Korean 19 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] A high-ranking ruling party official said on 19 August that President Kim Yong-sam will deliver a special speech to the people on 24 August, revealing the blueprint of the state affairs for the latter part of his presidency.

President Kim To Nominate New DLP Chairman

SK2008035795 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Aug 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Kim Yong-sam will nominate the new chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) for approval at a national congress of key party members tomorrow.

Rep. Kim Yun-whan, secretary-general of the DLP, is considered one of the leading candidates for the chairmanship, the No.2 post in the party's hierarchy.

The nomination by President Kim, who also heads the DLP as party president, is expected to be approved by deputies to the congress.

The conference, which will be held in the 63-story Korea Life Insurance Building in Yoido, will be attended by some 1,400 deputies, including officeholders and lawmakers, and some 1,000 guests. Kim has avoided indicating whom he will nominate to replace party Chairman Yi Chun-ku. Chairman Yi has tendered his resignation to President Kim, holding himself responsible for the party's defeat in the June local elections.

Yi succeeded Kim Chong-pil who left the ruling party after being pressured to resign as party chairman in February. Kim later created the opposition United Liberal Democrats.

At the national congress, the deputies are also expected to approve a draft revision to the party charter, which would strengthen Kim's control of party operations.

Under the draft revision, the party president is allowed to appoint the floor leader. Prior to the revision, the floor leader has been elected by party lawmakers from two lawmakers recommended by the party president.

In addition, the DLP would abolish the selection of chief local organizers through "limited" competition, a method which was introduced in February in line with the party's strategy for globalization.

This would pave the way for President Kim to handpick the party's local chapter chairmen, who become the party's parliamentary candidates when general election are held. But those measures invited public criticism that the DLP took a backward step in pushing for in-house democracy.

Following the selection of the new party chairman, President Kim is also expected to reshuffle other party officeholders and cabinet ministers this week.

Party insiders said President Kim is likely to designate one of the leaders of the conservative Minjong faction as the new chairman.

They said President Kim may fill the post of secretary-general with one of the core members of the reform-minded Minju faction which is loyal to him to maintain power balance in the party.

Article Discusses Regrouping of Democratic Party

952C0162A Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean 20 Jul 95 pp 16- 17

[FBIS Translated Text] As the imminent formation of "the new Kim Tae-chung party" becomes a certainty, it poses the following problem: What will become of the Democratic Party [DP] when the Tonggyo-tong faction (affiliated with Kim Tae-chung) pulls out? The DP may be divided roughly into two groups, the Tonggyo-tong faction and the non-Tonggyo-tong faction. The former may be subdivided into small groups headed each by DP Advisor Kim Sang-hyon; DP Vice President Kim Won-ki; DP Vice President Cho Se-hyong; and DP Advisor

Chong Tae-chol. All of them are under the wings of Kim Tae-chung, president of the Asia Foundation. On the other hand, the non-Tonggyo-tong faction may be subdivided into these small groups: a group headed by DP President Yi Ki-taek; the Reformist Group led by DP Vice President Yi Pu-yong; and regional groups of National Assembly members from the Kyonggi, Chungchong, Kangwon, and Taegu areas. Of the 96 DP assemblymen, between 10 and 15 belong to the non-Tonggyo-tong faction. They are: President Yi Ki-taek and Assemblymen Kang Chang-song, Yi Chang-hui, Yi kyu-taek, and Pak Kye-tong; Vice President Yi Pu-yong and Assemblymen Yu In-tae, Che Chong-ku, Won Hye-yong, and Kim Won-ung, all of whom belong to the Reform Group; Assemblymen Chong Ki-ho and Chang Ki-uk; Assemblyman Choe Uk-chol from Kangwon Province; Assemblyman Sin Chin-uk from Taegu; and Vice President No Mu-hyon from Pusan.

It is certain that when "the new Kim Tae-chung party" is organized, almost all of the assemblymen belonging to the Tonggyo-tong faction will join it, with only the assemblymen belonging to the non-Tonggyo-tong faction staying in the DP.

Attention is now focused on the question of what choice President Yi Ki-taek will make. It is still not clear what his choice will be. He is criticizing what he calls an unjustifiable move to form a new party directed against him. However, he keeps mum about his future course of action. He seems to be taking a wait-and-see attitude toward the moves of the Tonggyo-tong faction in his party before taking any countermeasures, because he thinks that they might hesitate to bolt the DP for fear of running the risk of being scorned as having a hand in the creation of a "Honam [North, South Cholla Provinces] party".

When the rumor about the move to form a new party was first floated, President Yi Ki-taek was skeptical. He brushed aside the rumor, believing it was intended as a gambit to hold him in check and oust him as party president, or as a trial balloon to see how public opinion would react if a move to form a new party was actually made. However, beginning 9 July, he took the move as an accomplished fact and began to express his opinion about it.

President Yi Ki-taek said: "I hear that the organizers of a new party are trying to enlist erstwhile politicians of the former ruling camp, including old ruling party politicos of the Fifth and Sixth Republics. However, the new party in the making will not be able to shed its image as a Honam party or the Kim Tae-chung party. Viewed from this standpoint, the new party would not be a success." "So far," he pointed out, "every one of those Yongnam [North, South Kyongsang Province] politicians who went to the Honam area to join hands with Kim Tae-chung in politics ended up as political corpses." He declared: "None of the former government party politicians," he asserted, "would be willing to stand such disgrace."

Yi Ki-taek takes a very negative view of Kim Tae-chung's move to organize a new party. Yi's feeling is summed up in these words: "Things will not turn out as he wishes"; "Politicians must walk the road of righteousness. There is no justification for organizing a new party"; "The situation is different from that when the New Democratic Party under Yim Min-u broke up in 1987"; "[Kim Tae-chung] joined hands with me in a merger three years ago, advocating a national party or a people's party. What was his intention then?"

He said: "Between 20 and 30 DP assemblymen will stay in the party, refusing to join the new party." He added: "Those who choose to remain in the party, and chairmen of local party chapters, particularly, those of the Yongnam area, will strongly oppose the move."

The first option open to DP President Yi is to remain in his party. Assemblyman Kang Chang-song, his close aide, said: "If a new party is organized, President Yi will stay in the DP to plan his future course of action." Some point out the possibility that Yi Ki-taek will give up his post as party president and withdraw from the party before the Tonggyo-tong faction renders the DP powerless by organizing a new party. However, this possibility seems nil. Yi Ki-taek himself has not said a word about this possibility, but one of his aides said, "Absolutely, that will never be the case."

It could be an alternative for Yi Ki-taek to withdraw from the party and organize a third party with the Kyongbuk area as a base. However, this is not an immediate possibility either, for he practically lacks the regional power base as Kim Chong-pil, president of the United Liberal Democrats, has. All things considered, it is highly possible that the DP president will either remain in the party for the time being, until next year's general election is over, or will join in the political realignment that might take place before next year's general election.

However, even if he remains in the party, it is not known whether he would be in a position to lead the DP. This is precisely why the DP's future is unclear. There is some apprehension that those who decide to stay behind after others bolt to join the new party may not support him as party president. However, regarding this apprehension, Yi Ki-taek only stresses matters of principle saying: "The nature of politics is such that people who share the same ideas act together by communicating mind to mind, but don't try to pull or control one another through an arbitrary organization."

If things were to move routinely, all that would need be done would be to hold a party convention to elect a new president on 28 and 29 August, according to the party by-laws. However, most of those who prefer to stay behind are skeptical about Yi Ki-taek's leadership ability as president. Party Vice Presidents Yi Pu-yong and No mu-hyon are typical of them. There is little possibility that they will continue to rally behind him and agree to have him continue to lead the party. Therefore it is possible that the non-Yi Ki-taek group [within the non-Tonggyo-tong faction], including Vice President Yi Pu-yong, will come out to challenge Yi Ki-taek for party leadership or put up a third person to take over party leadership from President Yi Ki-taek in a move to rebuild the DP.

In this process an internal feud could develop between the Yi Ki-taek faction and the non-Yi Ki-taek faction. In this event, it is highly possible that the DP will lose its direction and drift. In other words, the party might be completely reduced to the status of a splinter party.

It is also possible that Vice Chairmen Yi Pu-yong, No Mu-hyon, and others will bolt the DP to muster a new political force calling for a generational shift in opposition to the three Kims. Even if they should remain in the party, it is highly possible that they will put their primary efforts into exploring a third road rather than rebuilding the party. Vice President Yi Pu-yong has long adhered to an anti-Kim Tae-chung line calling for an end to the pattern of politics breaking up the country into power zones, and has advocated generational shift in leadership, criticizing the argument on equal rights for all regions [chiyok tungkwonnon]. The same is true with DP Vice President No Mu-hyon. It is certain that he will give behind-the-scenes support for the "Citizens United for Political Reform," a group recently organized to "oppose the three Kims," in its move to become a political force. If Assemblymen Yu In-tae, Che Chong-ku, Won Hye-yong, and Kim Won-ung of the Citizens United for Political Reform refuse to join the new party to the end, they will probably join hands with Vice President Yi Pu-yong.

If the DP is reshaped into a new reform party through internal unity regardless of who will become the head of the DP after the Tonggyo-tong faction pulls out, it will be able to acquit itself well in next year's general election. On the contrary, if they are thrown into an internal squabble for power and torn asunder once again, the party will gradually disintegrate and end up exploding in mid-air. That is why public attention is even more focused on the future of the DP, where only those interested in searching for a new political order and forming a new political force will remain.

Who [among the 96 DP assemblymen] will join the new party?

The following 69 will join the new party: Yi Chong-chan, Chang Sok-hwa, An Tong-son, Kim Chang-kon; Chong Tae-chol, Pak Sil, O Tan, Sin Sun-pom, Cho Se-hyong, Han Kwang-ok, Chang Yong-tal, Pak Tae-yong, Kim Tok-kyu, Hong Sa-tok, Chae Yong-sok, Hwang Ui-song, Sin Kye-ryun, Kim Chong-Wan, Yi Hyop, Kim Myong-kyu, Kim Won-kil, Sin Ki-ha, Kim Won-ki, Cho Sun-sung, Yim Hwa-chong, Chong Sang-yong, Kim Tae-sik, Pak sang-chon, Son Se-il, Yim Pok-chin, Hong Yong-ki, Yu Chun-sang, Yi Won-hyong, Pak Kwang-tae, Chong Kyun-hang, Hong Ki-hun Kim Sang-hyon, Yi Kil-chae, Yi Hui-chon, Yi Yong-kwon, Kim Yong-pae, Cho Hong-kyu, Choe Nak-to, Kim Yong-chin Choe Tu-hwan, Yi Yun-su, Kang Chol-son, Kim pong-ho, Yi Kyong-chae, Mun Hui-sang, Choe Chae-sung, Yu In-hak, Kim Pyong-o, Yi Sok-hyon, Kwon No-kap, Pak Sok-mu, Kim Chung-cho, Kim In-kwon, Han Hwa-kap, Chang Chae-sik, Yi U-chong, Na Pyong-son, Kim Ok-chon, Kuk Chong-nam, Pak Chong-hun, Kim Ok-tu, Kim Mal-yong, Pak Chi-won, Nam-kung Chin.

The following 17 are neutral: Yi Chol, Yu In-tae, Cho Sun-hyong, Ha Kun-su, Won Hye-yong, Che Chong-ku, Yi Kyu-taek, Yi Sang-tu, Choe Uk-chol, Sin Chin-uk, Yi Tong-kun, Kim Chung-hyon, Pak Il, Pak Un-tae, Chang Ki-uk, Yang Mun-hui, Cho Yun-hyong.

The following six are considering staying: Kang Su-rim, Pak Kye-tong, Kim Won-ung, Chong Ki-ho, Chang Chun-ik, Kang Hui-chan.

The following four are sure to stay: Yi Ki-taek, Yi Pu-yong, Yi Chang-hui, Kang Chang-song.

Possible Changes in Presidential Cabinet Viewed

SK2108054795 Seoul YONHAP in English
0511 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 21 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam is expected to conduct a small-scale reorganization of his cabinet and presidential secretaries.

Reliable sources predicted that President Kim will retain Prime Minister Yi Hong-ku at his present post and will replace a small number of his cabinet members and secretaries with "capable" younger people in their 40s.

"Although the reorganization will be small in scale, President Kim is expected to conduct a bold reshuffle of his cabinet members and Chongwadae [presidential offices] secretaries by appointing younger officials in their 40s," said a key member of the ruling camp.

He cited the example of President Kim's recent appointment of Kim Ki-chae, 49, replacing former Government Administration Minister So Sok-chae, who was dismissed earlier this month after he assumed responsibility for his controversial remarks about a slush fund allegedly controlled by a former president.

Observers predict Deputy Prime Minister and Finance and Economy Minister Hong Chae-hyong will likely be replaced.

Meanwhile, attention is growing over whether Chongwadae chief Secretary Han Sung-su will be retained or not.

There are conflicting views as to whether Deputy Prime Minister and National Unification Minister Na Ung-pae will be retained. Some observers predict Minister Na will be included in the reshuffle because he has been under constant criticism from political parties, which are holding him responsible for the recent detention by North Korea of a South Korean rice freighter at the port of Chongjin.

But others say Minister Na will be retained because he has only been at his present post for a short time and the government wishes to maintain a consistent North Korea policy.

Foreign Minister Kong No-myong is almost certain to retain his present position, observers said. But Home Minister Kim Yong-tae will inevitably be replaced so that he can devote himself to the forthcoming general elections for a post in the Taegu District.

Those being mentioned as would-be candidates to succeed Minister Kim are Kim Yong-su, senior presidential secretary for petition and information, and Kim U-sok, a former construction minister. These two figures belong to the so-called "Minju" faction which was loyal to President Kim Yong-sam during his opposition days.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Choe In-ki and Environment Minister Kim Chung-wi are expected to tender resignations as they are preparing to run in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Information and Communication Minister Kyong Sang-hyon is also likely to be part of the reshuffle in connection with the problems experienced by Korea's first multi-purpose satellite, Muggunghwa, which initially failed to reach its ultimate geostationary orbit, sources predicted.

In addition, Pak Kwan-yong, special advisor to President Kim, is expected to return to political circles as a head of the ruling party's new local chapter in Pusan, the sources said, adding that most of the other senior secretaries, however, will almost certainly be retained.

Bank of Korea Governor Resigns, Offers Apology

*SK1908072095 Seoul YONHAP in English
0707 GMT 19 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 19 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam Saturday afternoon accepted the resignation offered by Bank of Korea Governor Kim Myong-ho.

Governor Kim said earlier in the day he was resigning as the head of the central bank in connection with the recent diversion of bank notes from the bank's Pusan branch.

"I have decided that judging from the gravity of the incident, it would be proper for me to resign as Bank of Korea governor," he said at a hastily called press conference.

Stating he made the decision purely on his own, the outgoing governor said he would like to offer apology to the people and also the administration over the incident.

Kim expressed the hope that the incident won't adversely affect the independence of the central bank.

Prosecution Not To Reopen 12 Dec Incident Probe

*SK1908031995 Seoul YONHAP in English
0249 GMT 19 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 19 (YONHAP) — The prosecution on Saturday ruled out the possibility of reinvestigating the Dec. 12 "coup d'etat-like incident" because it does not feel that the recently revealed taped telephone conversations between and among senior Army officers involved in the incident provide any new evidence.

"We don't feel any need to investigate it again since earlier probes already found the taint of military rebellion in the coup," a prosecutor said. He made the remarks in reaction to calls voiced by opposition parties and civic organizations for a reinvestigation of the incident, which grew louder after the tape-recorded telephone conversations were revealed.

"Since the contents of the taped conversations are not different from the testimonies given by the people involved during the prosecution's investigation last year, we do not feel that the tape can be new evidence or be used to overturn the earlier decision of the prosecution," he said.

On Oct. 29 last year, the prosecution decided to suspend the indictment of 34 of the 38 people sued for either conspiring in the incident or for actively taking part in it. They include former Defense Security Commander Gen. Chon Tu-hwan and Ninth Division Commander Gen. No Tae-u, both of whom later became president.

"We made the decision after considering political and social factors. So there is no need to reopen the case," he said. He also cited that the statute of limitations for prosecuting those found guilty in the incident has already expired.

Hyundai Honorary Chairman Plans Visit to North

SK1908063995 Seoul YONHAP in English
0622 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 19 (YONHAP) — Chong Chu-yong, honorary chairman of the Hyundai business group, said Saturday he will visit North Korea to push his group's economic cooperation programs there soon after the government approves his trip to the communist state.

Chong also said he will directly engage himself in the large-scale projects being undertaken by the Hyundai business group there.

"I am planning to visit North Korea upon the government's approval of my trip as the North has invited me," Chong told reporters at the 63 building in Seoul just prior to his granddaughter's wedding ceremony.

He said the economic cooperation projects he agreed to proceed with in the North during his visit there in 1989 are still in effect, adding that he will again push ahead with such projects as the development of Mt. Kumgang (Diamond) and the construction of the Wonsan shipyard.

Asked to elaborate on the details of his meeting with President Kim Yong-sam earlier in the day, Chong replied, "Our discussion focused mostly on the country's economic revival."

Crimes by Foreigners 'Swelling Sharply'

SK1908083895 Seoul YONHAP in English
0749 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Aug. 19 (YONHAP) — Crimes and other law violations committed by foreigners in South Korea have been swelling sharply lately.

Figures compiled by the Prosecutor General's Office showed Saturday cases of foreigners' law violations numbered 2,548 in 1994, which compare with 1,789 in 1990.

By nationality, Americans topped the list with 1,234 cases, followed by Chinese with 608 and Japanese with 203.

By the type of law violation, the cases of violence numbered 610, traffic violations 561, violations of the special law on the handling of traffic accidents 270, larcenies 198, frauds 122, violations of the law on foreign exchanges 102, and robberies 47.

In particular, cases of violence swelled from 323 in 1990 to 405 in 1991, 480 in 1992, 543 in 1993 and 610 in 1994, according to the figures.

Korea Heavy Industry's Union Continues Strike

SK2008092895 Seoul YONHAP in English
0841 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Changwon, South Kyongsang Province, Aug. 20 (YONHAP) — The trade union of the Korea Heavy Industries and Construction Co. (Hanjung) continued its strike Sunday for the third consecutive day, demanding a hike in wage and bonus, with over 500 unionists engaged in a sit-in at their executives' offices.

Some 600 managerial employees also came to work Sunday and were deployed at sit-in strike sites.

There appears to be little chance for easy compromise due to a wide gap between the union's demands and management's responses. The union demands that the basic monthly pay be increased by 75,000 won, and that the bonus rate be hiked from 600 percent to 700 percent. The unionists have asked for the introduction of production incentive benefits as well. The employers on the other hand have proposed a 7.1 percent pay raise or 55,758 won a month.

The union is scheduled to hold a rally at 8:30 AM Monday when some 3,000 workers report to work and discuss ways to intensify their struggles. One of such ways is said to be blocking management from filing with the central labor committee an arbitration application.

An aggravation of the strike is feared as management is reportedly considering even shutting down the company if and when no compromise is reached soon.

Women's Dormitory Fire Kills Over 30 Students

SK2008232795 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network
in Korean 2100 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A fire broke out at a women's vocational school's dormitory in the middle of the night. As a result, more than 30 died.

At around 0208 this morning [21 August], a fire broke out in the Kyonggi Women's Technical Vocational School in Mabong-ni, Kusong Myon, Yongin County, Kyonggi Province, and more than 30 students who were sleeping at the dormitory were killed and 20 were seriously wounded.

Since many are severely wounded, the number of the death will likely increase.

Those wounded are hospitalized in seven hospitals in Suwon, including Aju University Hospital and Tongsuwon Hospital.

With the fire, the building's second floor with the area of 1,700-pyong [one pyong is 3.95 square yards] was all burnt and the fire was put out after one hour.

The Kyonggi Women's Technical Vocational School is a rehabilitation technical vocational training center for women, which has been operated by a certain religious organization at the request of Kyonggi Provincial government. It accommodated 138 women and carried out technical vocational training, including beauty art and the like.

In particular, this school installed iron bars at the dormitory's window in order to prevent the students from escaping, and the emergency exits were blocked. Besides, the doors were kept closed after dinner time. As a result, the number of victims increased.

The police discovered a trace of arson at the rooms on the first and second floors as the blankets were spread there and assumed that the school students set the fire. The police are now investigating the exact cause of the fire.

Burma

Suu Kyi Resolves To Continue Democracy Work

MS2108103495 London INDEPENDENT in English 21 Aug 95 p 9

[Report on "exclusive" Interview with Suu Kyi, Leader National League for Democracy, by Tim McGirk in Rangoon; date not given: "Suu Kyi Keeps flame Of Democracy Light"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Rangoon, critics of Aung San Suu Kyi claim that six years of house arrest imposed by the military regime have extinguished her fire. Since her release five weeks ago, these critics say, the Nobel Peace Prize winner has rarely ventured from the house beside Inya lake where she was kept prisoner for so long.

"No, the fire hasn't gone," Ms Suu Kyi told the Independent. Her voice stays calm, but her eyes flash, revealing a diamond-hard determination. "The Slorc (Burma's ruling generals) would like to believe that, but it isn't true."

Ms Suu Kyi is a slender, delicate woman, just turned 50; her face possesses a quiet radiance. Although she says she forgives her captors, her imprisonment has not weakened her resolve to bring democracy back to Burma. "Our intention is to get to the negotiating table with the military government. I'll work quietly and steadily for democracy," she said.

The release of Ms Suu Kyi reminded many Burmese of a Buddhist custom: On the steps of Burma's golden pagodas, you find vendors who will sell you a bird so that you can set it loose. The Burmese, who are mainly Buddhists, believe that this liberation will cleanse your karma.

But diplomats and many Burmese in Rangoon think there were less spiritual reasons for freeing Ms Suu Kyi. The military regime, they believe, badly needs to attract foreign investment and aid into Burma. Britain, the US and many other nations refuse to help because of the generals, poor human-rights record.

Pro-democracy forces, led by Ms Suu Kyi, won elections in 1990, but the Slorc (State Law and Order Restoration Council) refused to honour the results. The army placed Ms Suu Kyi under house arrest and threw thousands of her followers in jail. "Even under house arrest, I never felt claustrophobia," she said, adding with a laugh: "I confess, I do miss the regular hour that I used to keep when I was alone."

Ms Suu Kyi may have no choice but to deal with the generals from inside a kind of cage. Outside, the ordinary Burmese citizen lives in terror of spies and informers who keep track on where everybody goes and with whom they meet. Arrests and intimidation are common. Burmese are routinely press-ganged by the army to do everything from repair roads to act as coolies for soldiers fighting guerrillas in the jungle. It is hardly surprising that few Burmese dare to dissent openly.

Even at the gates of Ms Suu Kyi's house, a military intelligence agent jots down the name and address of her visitors. More police with binoculars are posted in a building across the street.

She is now accompanied by her husband, Michael Aris, an Oxford don, and one of their two sons, who flew out to join her as soon as she was freed. As one foreigner in Rangoon said: "The army is trying to ignore her. They're acting as if Aung San Suu Kyi is just an ordinary housewife who happens to have a lot of visitors."

Since her release, however, she has united her old party, the National League for Democracy, and activists from the jade mountains north of Mandalay down to the Irrawaddy delta have risked arrest to visit her.

Welding together her party was no small task, since the generals set the party's leaders against each other. Some activists were locked up, while others were forced to collaborate. Several of Burma's armed insurgent groups also rallied to her and called for three-way talks.

Most important is the change in mood. Once again, in restaurants and public parks, you find Burmese speaking out against the generals' misrule, if only in nervous whispers. "It's possible that the Slorc may have underestimated the solidarity of my support," Ms Suu Kyi said. And one Westerner explained: "The junta has an excellent spy network, but everybody is afraid to be the one to give their bosses the bad news of how popular she is."

Since her release, Ms Suu Kyi has urged her followers to move cautiously. She is still waiting for a first meeting with the junta. "Lines of communication are open with them," she said wryly. "It was easy. You probably noticed the military intelligence man at the gate."

Rangoon is a city of rumours, but most Westerners and Burmese dissidents agree that Ms Suu Kyi's surprising release from captivity has exposed deep fissures inside the Slorc. Comprising more than 20 generals in their 60s and 70s, many of whom rose from the rank of private to become regional warlords, the Slorc has brought Burma to the edge of ruin with its xenophobia and oddball "Buddhist economics".

Within the Slorc, the chairman, Tan Shwe, is seen as a "pragmatist" who realises that Burma can only grasp the foreign aid it desperately needs by making some concessions to Ms Suu Kyi.

The hardliners, led by Lieutenant-General Khin Nyunt, in charge of military intelligence argue that the many business opportunities in Burma will eventually convince Asian investors, notably from Singapore, South Korea and Japan to overcome their qualms over the junta's cruelty.

Burmese are barred by the military regime from assembling in groups of more than five people. Yet every weekend, more than 1,000 followers of Ms Suu Kyi have gathered outside her gates to listen to "the Lady of the Lake" speak and offer her prayers.

"Sometimes it's raining and the ground is wet. I have to tell these people in front to have consideration fog those in the back — democracy is like that — so they fold their umbrellas and sit down on the soggy ground. They're always very disciplined. Never noisy," said Ms Suu Kyi. She uses her words carefully — the shadow of her long imprisonment in solitude is still there in her words.

This petite, delicate lady smiles. "You know, I'm not a rabble-rouser. I don't think I've ever made even one fire-and-brimstone speech."

During her house arrest, the regime made her pay for the costs of her incarceration. Ms Suu Kyi was forced to sell her family's furniture.

A few days after she was set free, a lorry rumbled up to her house, loaded with armchairs, mirrors and wardrobes that had once been hers. Slorc had secretly bought up her belongings. "I refused to accept it. I said: 'Take it away until I've paid for it'." Her house is bare of all but a few family portraits on the wall. "Besides, I kind of like it this way," she laughed. "What I need isn't my old furniture but a proper office for our democracy party. All I've got is a single old typewriter."

'Source' Reports SLORC, KNU Hold Talks

Cease-Fire Agreement 'Likely'

BK1808095595 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Aug 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tak — A ceasefire agreement is likely between Burma's ruling military junta and Karen National Union [KNU] rebels, a Thai border source said yesterday.

Suwicha Hiranyaphruk, a secretary to Thailand's National Security Council chief Charan Kunlawanit, helped mediate for talks between three representatives of the junta, or State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) as it is officially known, and Gen Bo Mya, president of the KNU, the source said. The three SLORC representatives were Tun Mya, Tun Aung Kyi and Aye Soe Mya.

The meeting took place at Ban Mae Khlong in Tak's Umphang District on Tuesday [15 August]. Also at the meeting were senior KNU officers including the movement's "forestry minister" Phado Aung, joint general secretary Maj Gen Maung Maung, chief of staff Maj Gen Ka Ze Doe, Division 4 commander Brig Gen Oliver, the source said.

Both sides reportedly agreed during their two-hour talks there must be a "sincere ceasefire". They also agreed to join hands in efforts to improve the welfare of their people who have long suffered from war, and to develop their country. The two sides will hold another round of talks in Pa-an capital of Burma's Kawthulay state before signing a ceasefire agreement. The agreement is expected to be signed by the SLORC's first general secretary Lt Gen Khin Nyunt and the KNU president.

KNU Official Comments

BK2008103395 Oslo Democratic Voice of Burma in Burmese 1345 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear Listeners: The 18 August issue of the BANGKOK POST carried a report that the KNU [Karen National Union] and the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] had met and held talks in Pa-an, the capital of Karen State. When asked about this report by the Democratic Voice of Burma, General Maung Maung, joint secretary general of the KNU, said it was nothing new.

Concerning this matter, DVB correspondent Ko Soe Win Nyo sent this report from a location along the Thai-Burmese border:

Gen. Maung Maung said the KNU and intermediaries for the SLORC held talks on 15 August. These meetings between the KNU and mediators for the SLORC have been going on for three years and are still in the (?preliminary) stage prior to an actual meeting between the KNU and the SLORC. Gen. Maung Maung said the KNU told the SLORC mediators that its attitude from the very beginning has been to hold talks with the SLORC and it wants the talks to be held in Rangoon.

Moreover, he denied that KNU Chairman Gen. Saw Bo Mya and SLORC Secretary-1 Lieutenant Gen. Khin Nyunt were going to sign an agremeent. He said if the KNU is going to talk to the SLORC, it will send an advance group and the talks will be held step by step following preliminary (?arrangements). He added that in holding talks, both sides — the KNU and SLORC — must reach a satisfactory level where they can move to the stage of signing an agreement. He said there is no change in the KNU's previous attitude that political discussions must be held to resolve political problems through political means. He added that one mediator who arranged the talks between the KNU and the SLORC intermediaries is Suwicha [Hiranyaphruk], secretary of chairman of the Thailand's National Security Council, the NSC. The SLORC middlemen are U Hkun Myat, U Aye Soe Myint, and U Tun Aung Kyaw, the negotiators who arranged the meetings between the SLORC and the Kachin, Mon, and Karenni groups.

Radio: 33 'Rebels' Return to 'Legal Fold'

BK2008073395 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of armed groups in the jungle who have come to accept the genuine goodwill and activities of the State Law and Order Restoration Council have been giving up their armed struggle and continuously returning to the legal fold along with their arms and ammunitions at various Army camps.

A total 33 rebels who returned to the legal fold between 7 and 17 July were warmly welcomed by the responsible personnel at the camps and given the necessary assistance.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Government, Media Criticize UN Bosnia Strategy

Gorazde Troop Withdrawal Condemned

BK1908134595 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Malaysia has condemned the pull-out of United Nations troops from Gorazde, a so called safe haven as declared by the world body in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The latest UN move to leave Gorazde may result in a genocide similar to that which what happened in Srebrenica. The Prime Minister's Office said this in a statement.

When Srebrenica was captured by the Serbs, the United States reported that 2,700 Bosnian Muslims were massacred. Reports from the international media indicate that UN troops would be pulling out of Gorazde. The Ukranian troops were reported to have pulled out of Gorazde and 100 British troops will be leaving the town soon. Under the resolution adopted at the London conference on Bosnia, the UN would launch air strikes if the Serbs attacked the UN forces. Therefore, in the absence of UN forces in Gorazde, the UN will not take any action. A statement said that the UN had requested the Organization of Islamic Conference, OIC, countries to despatch troops to Gorazde to make up for the Ukranian and British troops. The UN had requested 10 soldiers from Malaysia, saying that OIC member countries had refused to send their soldiers there. This goes to show that OIC member countries are not willing to send the 100 military personnel, who would not be able to do anything when attacked by the Serbs.

What the UN is trying to do is to blame the OIC member countries for their own failure to defend Gorazde.

Defense Minister: UN 'Unethical'

BK2008125695 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar has said that he considers the United Nations unethical and that it has an ulterior motive in asking the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] to send 100 troops to Gorazde to replace the Ukrainian and British troops.

Editorial Says UN 'Careless'

BK2108090495 Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 21 Aug 95 p 6

[Editorial: "The United Nations Is Irresponsible"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN decision to pull its troops out of Gorazde is an irresponsible act and an indication of the careless attitude adopted by the world body, which had been mandated to protect this Bosnian safe haven. It is proper that the world body should be criticized and condemned for this decision. It looks like the world body is giving a green light to the Serb aggressors to continue slaughtering Muslims in Gorazde.

The United Nations is aware that if its troops pull out of Gorazde, the Muslims there will be subject to Bosnian Serb aggression and will soon become victims of ethnic cleansing by the Serbs. The United Nations did not take this into account, however. Instead, it is trying to shift responsibility and blame to the members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, OIC, for refusing to send soldiers to protect Gorazde.

From the beginning, the United Nations has not been sincere in its effort to end the Bosnian conflict. This had been proved by past experience; on several occasions UN decisions have been partial toward the Serbs. Among other things, for example, was the siege of the Srebrenica safe haven by the Serb separatists last month, followed by the fall of Zepa two weeks later. The United Nations did not take any action to punish the

Serb separatists. The so-called strong warning issued to the Serb separatists after the London meeting on Bosnia not to attack Gorazde proved meaningless because the United Nations is now pulling out its troops from the area and is opening the way for the Serb separatists to continue their aggression in wider areas of Bosnia.

The UN decision attests to its failure at being a world body that remains neutral in settling conflicts. It has also failed to carry out its responsibility as a world peacekeeping body and is not able to provide protection for victims of cruelty and oppression by the big powers.

Therefore, it is proper if Malaysia and other Muslim countries decide to supply arms to the Bosnian Muslim government so it can protect itself and the sovereignty of its country from violation by Serb separatists. The United Nations has no right to stop any country from protecting the Bosnian Muslims when it has given up the responsibility. The United Nations cannot deny the people of Bosnia their right to receive assistance to defend themselves.

If the United Nations continues to impose the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslim government, it is proper that the member countries should no longer place their trust in it.

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Criticize Rejection of Talks

BK2008083395 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 19 Aug 95

["Communique" issued by the spokesman for the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation on 19 August; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. With a high sense of responsibility for the fate of the nation and people and in an effort to seek every way to end the Vietnamese war of aggression and genocide quickly, the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation [PGNUNS] has time and again extended its hand to all Cambodians by proposing meetings and negotiations with them.

2. The two-heads, on the orders of communist Vietnam and the alliance, have opposed this offer. On 16 August, they made an arrogant statement opposing national reconciliation, peace, and the settlement of the Cambodian problem through negotiations among Cambodians.

3. This arrogant statement, aimed at continuing to kindle the war, is like suicide for them, because it goes against the wishes and the persistent call of the entire Cambodian nation and people. The entire Cambodian nation and people from all social strata — in the countryside, in Phnom Penh, and living abroad — do not want fighting or war. All they want is to end the war and achieve national reconciliation and peace so the people can have enough time to earn a living, resume a normal life, and salvage and keep our Cambodian nation and race from becoming a second Kampuchea Kraom [former Cambodian territory now part of Vietnam].

This call and this wish have turned into a powerful force that is waging all forms of struggle in all areas, causing the old and new aggressors and the two-heads to suffer serious defeats in all fields and all sectors. The situation in which the two-heads have found themselves for over two years — beaten up and laying on the ground like a mat — clearly attests to this irrefutable matter. If they risk continuing to kindle the war, they will suffer even more serious defeats and total collapse. Nothing can save them.

4. The PGNUNS still firmly believes that the communist Vietnamese war will definitely be stopped by the struggle waged by the entire Cambodian nation and people and through negotiations among Cambodians, including all Cambodian patriots who refuse to let communist Vietnam annex Cambodia.

19 August 1995

The PGNUNS spokesman

Khmer Rouge Radio Reports on Military Activity

Claims Victory in An Seh Battle

BK2008101395 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 8 August, the two-heads mobilized their forces to attempt to seize An Seh Pass in Choam Khsan District of Preah Vihear Province from us. The enemy forces launched their operation in three prongs. The first prong came along the road from Choam Khsan to An Seh supported by four tanks and a number of artillery pieces. The second prong moved from the east over Hill 600 in an attempt to attack us from the rear. The third prong came from the west over Hill 500, also in an attempt to attack us from behind.

For 10 days from 8 to 18 August, the invading two-headed forces could not pass through our networks of plain and poisoned punji stakes and all types of mines. We besieged them within our networks of assorted punjis and mines and split them into groups. The two-headed troops on the front line were cut off from supply. They had no rice to eat, no water to drink, and no way to transport the dead and wounded back to their position. On 15 August, we started to sweep the invading forces on all fronts. On the western front, they were completely routed and swept away on 17 August. On the main front, we routed and smashed them on 18 August. Those on the eastern front were also routed on 18 August.

We are surrounding the routed enemy forces in the (?valley). There is no way for them to escape.

Attack on Route 5 Blocks Road

BK2008101695 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a report on the National Army and people jointly cutting off Route 5 between Sisophon and Poipet:

1. On 17 August, our National Army and people jointly launched a two-pronged attack to cut off Route 5 along a stretch from Poipet to Nimit. The first prong cut off a stretch of Route 5 in an area between kilometer marker no. 4 and Poipet; that is, 4 km from Poipet. We dug a hole 5 meters deep and 15 meters wide. We set ablaze all the military barracks in this area and planted 30,000 punji stakes and many mines. The second prong cut off a stretch 200 meters east of Nimit. We dug three holes — a big hole 5 meters deep and 17 meters wide and two smaller holes, each 5 meters deep and 7 meters wide.

2. In addition to cutting off stretches of road, we attacked and completely destroyed the position of an enemy battalion defending Route 5 in an area near Nimit. We killed seven enemy soldiers on the spot and wounded five others; seized 15 B-40 rockets, 500 rounds of AK ammunition, and 250 rounds of RPK ammunition; and set ablaze a T-55 tank. All the enemy soldiers on the tank were killed. We planted 20,000 punji stakes and many assorted mines.

The stretch of Route 5 between Sisophon and Poipet, which has been cut off since 14 June, remains blocked.

3. The field command has commended our cadres, combatants, and people who joined hands in the attack to cut off Route 5, thus causing this road to remain blocked to this day. This shows their responsibility on the battlefield and for the nation and people in the effort to end the war, finish the two-heads, and achieve genuine peace and national reconciliation.

Experts Say Khmer Rouge 'Liable for Genocide'

BK2108070195 Hong Kong AFP in English 0650 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Phnom Penh, August 21 (AFP) — The Khmer Rouge are liable for genocide and other crimes against humanity while they ruled Cambodia in the 1970s, two international experts have told a conference that opened here Monday.

In preliminary findings to a conference on how to handle action against the rebels, the lawyers suggest international law enforcement and intelligence agencies cooperate to seize fugitive Khmer Rouge leaders. They would then be brought before an international tribunal similar to those being organized for the Balkan conflict and Rwanda. The two-day conference in Phnom Penh is aimed at finding international laws with which to prosecute the Khmer Rouge for atrocities.

Steven Ratner and Jason Abrams, who work for the US State Department-funded Cambodian Genocide Investigation Project, compared Khmer Rouge atrocities to the Nazi Holocaust and Stalin's pogroms. More than one million Cambodians died from 1975 to 1979. "We find prima facie culpability for acts against religious and ethnic groups...(that) meet the standard in the Genocide Convention of action with an "intent to destroy, in whole or in part, these groups," the lawyers wrote in a paper that is the central document of the conference.

The paper, obtained by AFP, goes on to say the Khmer Rouge are also culpable "for massive offenses" of crimes against humanity including murder, forced labor, torture, rape and forced population transfers. In addition it says the rebels are liable for "systematic violations" of the 1955 Cambodian criminal code which remained the law of the land during their reign.

Though they recommend the creation of an international tribunal by the United Nations to try the Khmer Rouge, the authors of the paper, Ratner and Abrams, say a "truth commission," similar to those established in Central and South American countries, is a more feasible option. A truth commission composed of both Cambodian and foreign members would investigate the crimes of the Khmer Rouge and turn over evidence to Cambodian prosecutors for further action, they said.

The question of Khmer Rouge accountability for past crimes has dogged Cambodians for the past 15 years with many opposed to dragging up the country's horrific past. Ratner and Abrams have suggested limiting the tribunal to Khmer Rouge policymakers and "cadres who directly participated in the most heinous of offences" — because some members of the present two-year old government are ex-Khmer Rouge fighters.

However, in remarks at the start of the conference, Cambodia's First Prime Minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, said the government was now committed to bringing rebel leaders to justice. "Continued failure to address the crimes of the Khmer Rouge... leaves open the wounds of this tragedy in Cambodian history," he said. "More important than this is justice for those who suffered.

"The high leaders of the Khmer Rouge responsible for atrocities must be caught, brought before the law and punished accordingly."

The conference, which is closed to the public and the press, ends Tuesday [22 August] evening.

Indonesia

Further on Flag Burnings, Official Reaction

Youths Meet Australian Official

BK1808130295 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1006 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jakarta, 18 Aug (ANTARA) — About 60 youths from the KNPI [Indonesian National Youth Committee] held a demonstration in front of the Australian Embassy on Friday [18 August] to protest the burning of Indonesian flags in Australia. The youths tore and burned two Australian flags as a show of their indignation over three separate flag-burning incidents in Melbourne in early August, in Darwin on 16 August, and again in Melbourne on the same day Indonesia celebrated its 50th independence anniversary on 17 August.

"The Australian Government must take strong action against the people who provoked the incidents; otherwise, Indonesian youth organizations will urge the Indonesian Government to reconsider its ties with Australia," said KNPI Chairman Tubagus Haryono. The KNPI members stood along the Australian Embassy wall and shouted anti-Australia slogans, while several security and police personnel were on guard near the location.

The Australian Embassy allowed six KNPI representatives to enter the embassy compound, but they left shortly afterward after they learned that the Australian ambassador refused to meet them. "The ambassador is indeed busy," Press Counselor John Milne said to ANTARA, adding that the six representatives managed to meet Political Counselor Neil Mules and presented a protest statement. "We are going to forward the protest statement to Canberra today," said Milne.

Following the burning of the Indonesian flags, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas twice summoned Australian Ambassador Allan Taylor to meet him, namely on 7 and 16 August.

Alatas Regrets Flag Burning

BK1808142095 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] About 100 youths from the KNPI [Indonesian National Youth Committee], the AMPI [Indonesian Renewal Youth Movement], and the Ansor Islamic Youth Movement held a protest demonstration at the Australian Embassy this morning. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas described the demonstration as a reaction by the Indonesian people, especially the youths, who cannot accept the flag-burning incidents in Australia when the country was celebrating the country's 50th independence anniversary. During the demonstration, the youths burned two Australian flags and wrote graffiti on the gate of the embassy. Alatas commented on the youths' demonstration after he opened a photo exhibition on 50 years of Indonesian diplomatic history this evening.

[Begin Alatas recording] We regret the burning of the Australian flags. I regret the incident because we should have shown that we are a more civilized nation — a nation that understands the importance of a flag. We respect both our own flag and other countries' flags. I understand the youths' anger and their need to demonstrate, display banners, and shout slogans, but it would have been better if they had not burned the flags. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Alatas also disclosed that anti-Indonesian demonstrations took place in other countries, namely, in Spain, New Zealand, and the Philippines. The demonstrations by a handful of people in those countries have tried to undermine the existing cordial ties between Indonesia and those countries. The Indonesian Government will lodge its protest against the anti-Indonesian demonstrations in the three countries. Indonesia hopes that the governments in those countries will take firm action against the demonstrators.

Embassy Requests Extra Security

BK2008142795 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1219 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the growing demonstrations against the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, the embassy authorities have requested security measures to provide protection for the embassy and its staff members.

Speaking to ANTARA in Jakarta on Sunday, embassy spokesman John Milne said: "The demonstrations are increasing. In particular, a number of demonstrators tried to enter the embassy grounds and destroy the Australian flag hoisted in the compound. This action was carried out despite the presence of Indonesian police personnel within the grounds."

Two demonstrations have occurred in front of the embassy during the past week to protest the burning of the Indonesian flag [during protests in Australia]. The second demonstration was carried out last Friday (18 August) by about 60 youths who are members of the National Indonesian Youth Committee (KNPI). The youths tore and burned the Australian flag and stood in front of the embassy gates.

Milne added: "We are concerned about security around the embassy and the safety of the staff members." In conjunction with the burning of the Indonesian flag in Australia last week, he said the Australian Government has taken the necessary security measures to safeguard Indonesian diplomatic and consular personnel there. He added: "We hope the relevant authorities in Indonesia will undertake similar measures with regard to the safety of the Australian Embassy in Jakarta."

The burning of the red and white Indonesian flag has occurred three times in Australia over the last three weeks. Two of the incidents occurred in Melbourne while another occurred in Darwin.

Canberra's Positive Attitude Praised

BK2108093395 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Strong protests launched by the Indonesian Government and its people in connection with the burning of the red and white flags in Darwin have attracted wide attention in Australia. Speaking to RRI, Zakaria Sumitaatmaja, the acting charge d'affaires of the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra, explained that the Australian Government had shown a positive stand, even though the Australian Foreign Ministry could not take any action previously against the demonstrations conducted within the country.

Australian Defense Minister Robert Ray suggested that Australia changes its attitude, among other things, through the introduction of a new legislation forbidding the burning of flags of other countries. (Sam Doone), the chief minister of the Northern Territory expressed his support for such legislation. Demonstrators had previously burned the red and white flags in the Northern Territory.

In a dialogue with RRI early this morning, Zakaria Sumitaatmaja, the Indonesian Embassy's acting charge d'affaires also said that according to reports in Jakarta, the reports carried by the Australian mass media or the newspapers today and yesterday stated that such a process was being looked into.

As reported by the Australian press media, Australian Trade Minister Robert McMullan gave serious consideration to the statement issued by the All-Indonesian National Importers, GINSI, which stated that it plans to boycott all imports from Australia. Robert McMullan considered the GINSI's statement as serious.

As such, Zakaria Sumitaatmaja, the acting charge d'affairs at the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra, expressed hope that the Indonesian community would not become too emotional regarding the burning of the red and white flags in Australia. The call by the acting charge d'affaires in Canberra was warmly welcomed by Rashid Emili, the general chairman of the association of former student activists, through a similar dialogue.

According to Rashid Emili, the NGO [nongovernmental organization] delegation headed by him was scheduled to be received by the Australian ambassador in Jakarta, and he then was to hand a peaceful protest to the Australian Government.

According to Rashid Emili, the incidents related to the burning of the red and white flags in Darwin was not the problem of the Australian and Indonesian Governments. As such, the Indonesian community should show a more mature attitude in tackling the issue.

MP's 'Strongly' Condemn Flag Burning

BK2108034195 Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 18 Aug 95 pp 1, 10

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jakarta, Friday, MERDEKA — MP's have strongly condemned the burning of Australian flags at the Australian Embassy in Jakarta by the Indonesian National Youth Committee [KNPI] because the action will not settle the problem and will instead complicate the situation.

Hamzah Haz, chairman of the United Development Party House Faction; Andi Mattalatta, secretary of the Functional Group House Faction; and B.N. Marbun, deputy chairman of the Indonesian Democratic Party House Faction expressed this criticism to reporters in Jakarta on 18 August.

However, Suryadi, deputy speaker of the House of Representatives, expressed his support for the KNPI for its strong protest at the Australian Embassy in Jakarta on Friday afternoon. "I asked the KNPI to adopt a stance after the first [Indonesian] flag burning incident, and they have done so. I take my hat off to them," he stated.

Replying to reporters, Hamzah said he understood the KNPI's action in retaliation against the recent burning of red and white flags in Australia. He believes, however, that this emotional action will not settle the problem.

He reminded us of differences in the way the Indonesian and Australian peoples respect national flags. We regard our national flag as a source of national pride, but they do not. Accordingly, burning a flag is normal during a demonstration. "Thus, the KNPI's burning of Australian flags has implied that we and Australia now have similar perceptions about flags," he said.

He believed the burning of the Australian flag will worsen diplomatic relations between the two countries. On the other hand, our credit point [preceding two words in English] would have increased if we had been able to exercise self-restraint.

The United Development Party House Faction chairman called for the recent burning of our flags in Australia to be settled diplomatically because we do not yet know whether those who burned the flags are Australians. "The KNPI's retaliatory action was not intellectual; thus, we call on the KNPI to help seek a more conceptual way to settle the problem," he said.

Mattalatta, secretary of the Functional Group House Faction, also regretted the KNPI's flag burning because it is improper for a youth organization of a high intellectual level to commit such actions. "The flag burning by the KNPI has reflected the emotionalism of the youth organization," he said.

In the meantime, Marbun, from the Indonesian Democratic Party House Group, believed the KNPI's action to be unwise. "Being a popular youth organization, the KNPI should not seek cheap popularity because we have to settle many more problems," Marbun said. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Interviewed

BK2108074995 Jakarta REPUBLIKA in Indonesian 19 Aug 95 p 1

[Interview with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas by unidentified REPUBLIKA correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [REPUBLIKA] Who are the anti-Indonesian demonstrators?

[Alatas] Former members of the Fretilin [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] and their supporters. They tried to damage the good relations between Indonesia and its neighbors. They were the ones who organized the Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor in the Philippines some time ago. At present, demonstrations have been held outside Australia, in places like Spain, the Philippines, and New Zealand. There is clearly a network which they are using to communicate with one another.

We have to be careful of such actions. We will not tolerate attacks on Indonesian Embassies and the burning of our flags. We will have to lodge a protest against them. Apart from sending protest notes to them, however, we also hope that the local government will take action against the demonstrators so that such incidents will not happen again. We know that demonstrations are allowed in Australia; however, there should be a limit to them, should there not?

We should be able to distinguish the small group of people who are trying to damage Indonesian-Australian bilateral relations on one side and the governments on the other. Generally, the governments of the countries where the demonstrations took place were sorry about the incidents. If we overreact, we may fall into the demonstrators' trap.

[REPUBLIKA] What did you say to these countries?

[Alatas] I told them that every country has the right to protect its good relations with neighboring countries. How long can the government and the people of Australia allow the good bilateral relations with Indonesia be damaged by a group of people who, in reality, are recognized as refugees? Now they are repaying the good deeds of the Australian Government by damaging relations between Indonesia and Australia.

[REPUBLIKA] Is it true that relations between the two countries were unpleasant following the cancellation of H.B.L. Mantiri's appointment as Indonesian ambassador to Australia?

[Alatas] These are two different cases. We have resolved the issue on the appointment of our ambassador to Australia. The context of the flag burning issue is totally different — an issue of protests by a small group of people, not by the government.

[REPUBLIKA] Should Australia apologize?

[Alatas] Australia's argument is that the government did not stage the demonstration; therefore, why should they extend the apology to Indonesia? This is the way we should look at it. Another thing is that we have seen the development of this incident. The person who tried to burn the Indonesian flag in Darwin had been arrested and put on the detention truck. I welcome this. When the Australian authorities began taking action against the demonstrators, the demonstration did not stop; the flag on the detention truck was burned instead.

[REPUBLIKA] What about the burning of Australian flags?

[Alatas] I feel sorry about this. We must show the Australians that we are in fact a more civilized nation.

However, I can understand the flared up emotions of the Indonesian youths.

Commentary on Australian Incident

BK2108035595 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Harmoko, chairman of the Functional Group Central Executive Council, has called on the Australian Government to take stern action against the groups of people involved in the burning of red and white Indonesian flags and to be responsible for the incidents.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas sent protest notes to Canberra and to the representatives of the Australian Government in Darwin and Melbourne over the Indonesian flag burnings there.

Indonesian House of Representatives, DPR, members have also protested the incident. Abu Hartono, leader of the ABRI [Indonesian Armed Forces] faction in Parliament, warned that such incidents should not happen again. Deputy House Speaker Ismail Hassan Metareum said that the burning of the red and white flag is a humiliation to the Indonesian nation.

Responding to the incidents, about 500 members of the Indonesian Youths National Committee, KNPI, staged a demonstration in Jakarta to protest the burning of the red and white flags in Darwin and Melbourne.

We can understand why the Indonesians are annoyed by the burning of red and white flags, especially at a time when the nation is commemorating its 50th independence anniversary and considers the flag as something sacred and a symbol of national unity. It is also an organ of national struggle against colonialism.

As the red and white flag is an integral part of national life, Indonesians cannot tolerate such actions. It is only proper that the Australian Government take stern action against the flag burners. Even though Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans has extended an apology over the incident, it seems that this is not moving toward a comprehensive settlement of the problem. This is because the many people agitated by the anti-integration East Timorese group will probably continue to terrorize the Republic of Indonesia. We should be aware of the fact that this improper action will eventually turn into a negative incitement to disrupt Indonesian-Australian relations, which have been well established.

Even though Australian law does not prohibit people from holding demonstrations or burning flags, the history and culture of Indonesia has been known to them a long time. As the closest neighboring country, they should be aware that the people paid a high price through their blood and sacrifice to protect the red and white flag from the colonist.

Based on this background, Indonesia has included in its criminal code that people who tarnish the flags of friendly countries will be prosecuted. Australians should be able to appreciate the friendliness and politeness of the Indonesia nation so that a misunderstanding between two neighboring countries can be avoided.

Listeners! There are many ways to calm down the situation following the burning of the flags so that Indonesian-Australian relations remain cordial.

Amnesty Offer for E. Timor Rebels 'Still Valid'

BK1808115795 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1106 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dili, 17 Aug (ANTARA) — Colonel Mahidin Simbolon, commander of the 164th Wiradharma Regional Area Command, says that the amnesty offer for members of the GPK [Security Disturbance Movement] is still valid.

"The amnesty offer still stands for those who have repented and come down from the forests or mountains to join society in developing the province," he said to ANTARA and JAKARTA POST correspondents after he attended a ceremony to mark the 50th independence anniversary in Dili on Thursday.

He was replying to a question on whether there is any special message in conjunction with Indonesia's 50th independence anniversary for GPK remnants, who are still roaming the forests and mountains. The commander said it is clear that any East Timor GPK member who has repented and willingly decides to join society will receive amnesty.

Laos

Cambodian Party Delegation Concludes Visit

Sirivut Meets Khamtai Siphandon

BK1808120395 Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vientiane, August 18, (KPL) — Kromkhun Norodom Sirivut, who is leading a delegation of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, and Cooperative Cambodia] party of the Kingdom of Cambodia on his current visit to Laos, yesterday called on president of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Mr. Khamtai Siphandon.

Mr. Khamtai Siphandon welcomed and hailed the Laos visit by the FUNCINPEC delegation. He said the visit would contribute to the strengthening of relationship and cooperation between Laos and Cambodia in general, in particular between the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and the FUNCINPEC. The two countries have maintained the ties of good neighbourliness and are satisfied with cooperation in various fields.

He wished Kromkhun Norodom Sirivut and his delegation success in his working visit to Laos.

The head of the FUNCINPEC party delegation informed Mr. Khamtai Siphandon of the outcome of the talks with a delegation of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and highly valued the contribution of the Lao party and government and people to the cause of peace and national concord in Cambodia.

Departs After Three-Day Visit

BK2008132795 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The delegation of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party of the Kingdom of Cambodia led by Kromkhun Norodom Sirivut returned home yesterday following a successful three-day visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] from 15 to 18 August.

While in Laos, the delegation paid a courtesy call on His Excellency [H.E.] Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee, and held talks with an LPRP delegation led by H.E. Somsavat Lengsavat, member of the party Central Committee. The visiting Cambodian delegation also met with Leuan Sombounkhan, vice chairman of the Planning and Cooperation Committee, and leading members of the Laos-Cambodia Friendship Association. They visited the Kaysone Phomvihan Museum and places of cultural significance in the capital, Vientiane.

Both sides valued that the visit to Laos by the Cambodian delegation marks an important milestone in the relationship between the LPRP and FUNCINPEC. It will help improve their good understanding of each other and also contribute to strengthening the traditional friendship and solidarity between Laos and Cambodia.

Seeing off the delegation at Wattai International Airport were H.E. Somsavat Lengsavat; Thongsi Inthaphon, alternate member of the party Central Committee and deputy chief of the party Central Committee's Foreign Relations Committee; concerned officials from the Foreign Relations Committee; Khek Lerang, Cambodian ambassador to the LPDR; and officials from the Cambodian Embassy in Laos.

Commerce Delegation Returns From PRC Visit

BK1808115895 Vientiane KPL in English 0922 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vientiane, August 18 (KPL) — A delegation of the Ministry of Commerce led by its minister, Sompadit Volasan, arrived here yesterday from a ten-day working visit to China.

In his interview, Mr. Khenthong Sisouvong, deputy-chief of the cabinet of the Ministry of Commerce, said that while in China, the Lao delegation had a talk with a Chinese delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation concerning [words indistinct] trade of each country. The two sides informed each other of their trade situations, and agreed to boost their trade relation more effectively and to expand the trade border. In this connection, Yunnan Province of China is approved of fulfilling the task of cooperation with Laos.

The two sides agreed that trade agreements signed in the past are still valid. Specially, the Chinese side informed the Lao side of its trade principles and methods.

The Lao delegation also took part in Kunming export goods fair in Yunnan Province. Held since 1993, the fair focuses on industrial and agricultural product.

Thailand

Foreign Minister Urges Total Nuclear Test Ban

BK1908114495 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Aug 95 p A2

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Foreign Minister Kasemsamoson Kasemsi yesterday reiterated Asean's opposition to the resumption of nuclear weapons testing and urged the nuclear powers to announce a total ban. He said the seven Asean partners were firmly against nuclear testing and had announced their collective stand when their foreign ministers met last month in Brunei.

In their joint communique issued after the meeting, Asean ministers condemned the resumption of nuclear testing by China and France, and urged the two countries to bring an abrupt end to such practices. They also urged nuclear powers to finalize a comprehensive test ban treaty by the middle of next year.

Kasemsamoson declined to comment on China's surprise underground nuclear test on Thursday. He said Asean's position was well known by the nuclear powers, but persistent repetition of the policy might weaken its effectiveness. "Our (Asean) position was stated during the recent Asean meeting in Brunei," said Kasemsamoson. "I don't think we can stop anybody at this particular moment (from nuclear testing). We must think about the future and find ways to eliminate future testing."

Beijing knew Asean's position, he said. China had been criticized when Asean ministers discussed security and defence affairs in Asia and the Pacific with other members of the Asean Regional Forum (ARF) in Brunei. The ARF chairman's closing statement called on all countries to immediately ban nuclear testing. ARF also welcomed the commitment by all signatories to the historic Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty to conclude a comprehensive test ban treaty by 1996.

Kasemsamoson yesterday pointed to the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone, an essential component of Asean's declaration of a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality, as a mechanism to express the association's opinions about nuclear weapons. [passage omitted on international reaction to PRC nuclear test]

Editorial Questions Sincerity of Japan Apology

BK2008103195 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 20 Aug 95 p A4

[Editorial: "Murayama's Apology: Still Doubts over Sincerity"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Delivering a speech which marked the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama made Japan's first unambiguous apology for its wartime actions.

"During a certain period in the not too distant past, Japan, following a mistaken national policy, advanced along the road to war, only to ensnare the Japanese people in a fateful crisis and through its colonial rule and aggression caused tremendous suffering to the people of many countries."

"In the hope that no such mistake be made in the future, I regard in a spirit of humility, these irrefutable facts of history, and express here once again my feelings of deep remorse and state my heartfelt apology," said Murayama.

Given the nationalist sentiments of many of the Liberal Democrats in Murayama's coalition government, it was something of a minor miracle that he was able to admit his country's "mistaken national policy" and to talk about Japanese military "aggression" without having to dilute two nuances.

Doubts have been raised as to whether the sentiments expressed by Murayama were his own or that of the Japanese government. One telling fact is that a statement released the same day by Murayama's Socialist Party went further than the prime minister's. In contrast, the LDP [Liberal Democrat Party] statement contained no mention of "aggression", much less than an apology.

Indeed Murayama's statement was a piece of well-crafted prose, that was silent on where and how aggressions took place. The statement even does not say when, only that it occurred "during a certain period in the not too distant past."

Nonetheless, Murayama's intentions were understood around the region at the political level.

But in Seoul, Beijing and other capitals, there were also reminders to the Japanese that words alone were not enough.

Fifty years after their country surrendered to the Allied Powers, Japan still faces claims for individual compensation from former comfort women in Asia, ex-prisoners-of-war in Britain and Taiwanese who had served in the Japanese army. Of course the Japanese cannot be faulted on legal grounds for insisting that war reparations had been settled through international treaties.

Amid criticism that Japan was trying to evade its responsibility, the government recently launched a private-sector fund to collect donations for former comfort women.

One major concern however remains on the minds of many who suffered under the Japanese during World War II: has Japan learnt from the lessons of history not to commit the same mistakes again?

This point was addressed by Murayama in his statement. "Our task is to convey to younger generations the horrors of war, so that we never repeat the errors in our history," he said.

Other Japanese leaders have also made similar pledges, but yet, even today many young Japanese know very little of World War II and the role of the Japanese Occupation of Southeast Asia. On the other hand, because of the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a strong victim mentality pervades in Japan today.

Japan must make known the true facts of World War II to its younger generation, otherwise there will be a gap in understanding between them and their contemporaries in Asia. The record shows that Japanese have a difficulty dealing with war issues. It is left to be seen whether that will change after Murayama's apology.

Defense Minister Inspects Burmese Border

Seeks To Ease Dispute

BK1908123495 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Aug 95 p 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mae Sot, Tak — Defense Minister General Chawalit Yongchaiyut yesterday led a 20-member delegation to Thai-Burmese border along Mae Sot district to investigate border disputes between the two countries. The team included Assistant Army Chief General Chetta Thanacharo, Third Army Region Commander Lieutenant General Surachet Dechatiwong and other agencies, a border source said. Gen Chawalit is due to pay an official visit to Burma on September 12 to create understanding about the border problems.

Burmese authorities in Myawaddy has ordered the Mae Sot-Myawaddy border closed since March 4 after accusing Thailand of supporting the Karen National Union to fight the Rangoon troops. Since then, border trading between the two sides was halted, resulting in a drastic drop in trade volume in the district. Thai and Burmese representatives met earlier in Mae Sot District on June 2 to jointly settle the dispute, but they failed to reach agreement, said the source.

On June 6, Burma ordered the construction of the Thai-Burmese Friendship Bridge suspended after it accused the Thai side of filling earth into the Moei River and extending buildings and shops encroaching on the river. After being briefed about the border situation, Gen Chawalit said such problems were regarded as a local-level disputes, which should not affect the relationship between the two governments.

Meanwhile, about 10 villagers of Rim Moei village, led by Mrs Chanphen Banyakawin, lodged a petition with Gen Chawalit demanding the Highways Department stop excavating sand along the Moei River. The group claimed such activity would erode the river bank and damage their houses. Mrs Chanphen also accused Myawaddy authorities of erecting stakes in a row on its side and filled up the river with rocks, causing the water current to damage the Thai river bank.

Report Details Revenue Loss

BK2008101195 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 20 Aug 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tak — Thailand is losing 600-700 million baht a month in revenue from crossborder trade with Burma because of the selfishness of a small group, according to Gen Chettha Thanacharo. The assistant army chief made his claim in a report to Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut who visited Mae Sot to get first-hand information on the border situation before visiting Burma early next month.

"The Thai-Burmese Friendship Bridge is an indication of good relations between the two countries.

"But the incident in Ranong that was created by a handful of people has caused a huge loss to the entire 60 million Thai people," Gen Chettha said. He was referring to the recent killing of at least four Burmese crew on board a Thai fishing vessel.

"When I met Burma's Southeastern Force Commander Maj-Gen Ket Sein in the middle of last month we agreed suspension of the construction of the Thai-Burmese Friendship Bridge would be temporary.

"The establishment of the border demarcation committee to settle border disputes is a way of solving the problem," the assistant army chief said. Although the incident at Ranong was minor it must be raised with Burma to reach an understanding.

Because of the border closure affecting Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Mae Hong Son, Tak, Kanchanaburi and Ranong, Thailand was losing 600-700 million baht a month in trade revenue and businessmen were in trouble, he said.

Gen Chettha said he did not think Burma would turn away from Thailand to trade with Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia "as long as our products are good and we are sincere about benefits for both countries".

Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha said in Bangkok it would take some time to restore relations between Thailand and Burma following the murder of the Burmese crew. The Interior Ministry has set up a committee to inquire into the killings and the Ranong governor has been trying to work with Burmese local officials to create understanding, he said.

Meanwhile, authorities in Phet Buri and Prachuap Khiri Khan have been told to watch out for Burmese students possibly conducting anti-Rangoon activities, according to an Interior Ministry source. Interior deputy permanent secretary Damri Watthanasingha yesterday told governors of the two provinces to keep a close watch on students from Camp 121 inside Burma who might cross the border to receive food and medicine from the Phet Buri-based Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees. A report to the ministry claimed several Burmese students from Camp 121 recently entered Thailand without permission through Thap Sakae District in Prachuap Khiri Khan and went to Phet Buri to get relief items from the refugee agency.

The governors were told to watch the agency's activities in case they caused a misunderstanding between

Thailand and Burma and were asked to verify claims the group helped the students. Police had been told to ensure Burmese students living in Thailand were kept within proper limits in protesting outside the Burmese embassy.

Envoy, Prime Minister on Fishing Row With Burma

Government Not To Apologize

BK1908133695 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Aug 95 p A3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government is not in a position to "apologize" for the murder of Burmese fishermen on a Thai trawler recently because the crime concerns a private fishing Company, not the government, Thai Ambassador to Rangoon Poksak Nin-ubon said yesterday. What the government can do is express "regret" for the deaths, allegedly at the hands of Thai crewmen, as well as take legal action against the culprits, he stressed.

Poksak was referring to the apparent revenge killings by a group of Thai crewmen who suspected that Burmese crew members had alerted their country's authorities to illegal activities on Thai trawlers.

Defence Minister Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut is scheduled to visit Rangoon early next month and will convey a letter from Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha expressing "regret" over the killings and ensuring Thailand's seriousness in solving the case. "The Thai government is not going to apologize to the Burmese government but it will express its condolence. The crime involved a private fishing company," Poksak said. Poksak was here to attend a meeting of Thai ambassadors and consul generals.

Meanwhile, a well-informed source said that Burmese Ambassador to Thailand U Tin Winn had met Foreign Ministry Deputy Permanent Secretary Sarot Chawanawirat on Wednesday [16 August] to discuss the incident. The source quoted Sarot as telling the Burmese envoy that the Foreign Ministry and other authorities concerned were doing their best to resolve the issue.

Poksak said the Burmese government had expressed its "understanding" of Thailand's explanation about its seriousness and sincerity in handling the case.

A Thai skipper and a Cambodian crew member of the vessel on which 15 Burmese were beaten and thrown overboard have been arrested, and arrest warrants have been issued for 10 other Thai crewmen. Burmese authorities were furious about the murders, prompting them to order the closure of a temporary checkpoint on Kawthaung Island opposite Thailand's Ranong province. The order resulted in the closing of the last border trade link between Thailand and Burma as two other main checkpoints, one in Tak and the other in Chiang Rai province, were closed down earlier.

Poksak said Thai private firms should be far-sighted and adopt long-term business strategies when investing in other countries instead of operating with short-term measures aimed at maximum profits. The ambassador denied criticism that Thailand was taking a weak position in handling the Thai-Burmese problems. Earlier this year the Burmese government failed to react to a series of protests by Thailand on incursions by Burmese troops into Thai territory.

Critics said Thailand had overreacted to the murders of the Burmese crewmen, compared to Rangoon's reaction to the incursions. "We are not taking the weaker position with Burma. In the case of the incursions by Burmese troops into Thai territory, the Rangoon government had claimed that they were actually the work of two groups of Burmese ethnic minorities. "The deaths of the Burmese crewmen have nothing to do with the Thai government, but a private company," Poksak said.

The same source said a team from Narong Canning Co had already arrived in Rangoon to explain the situation to the Burmese government. The vessel involved in the crime was operating under a concession granted to the Myanmar [Burma]-Narong Canning firm, a joint venture of Narong Canning.

[Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English on 19 August in a similar report on page 6 adds: "It will take time to restore relations between Thailand and Burma which have been spoiled by the alleged murder of Burmese seamen by Thai fishermen, Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha stressed yesterday.

["The fact-finding committee set up by the Interior Ministry and the Ranong governor had discussed the case with local Burmese authorities to clear up any misunderstanding between the two sides, he said. "The talks have shown signs that the situation is improving.

["However, he insisted that it would take 'some time' before bilateral relations returned to normal.

["A group of at least 11 Thai fishermen allegedly killed four Burmese workers on board the formers' vessel owned by the Narong Canning Co.

["According to an earlier report from the Burmese embassy, the violation of a fishing agreement had sparked a disagreement between both sides which led to the murder, said to have taken place off Burma's Kawthaung, also known as Victoria Point.

["Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut said no one should expect that his planned official visit to Burma next month would lead to an immediate improvement in the situation but insisted that it would at least have a positive effect."]

More Fishermen's Bodies Recovered

BK2008101495 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 20 Aug 95 p A1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ranong — The bodies of two more murdered Burmese fishermen have been found, bringing the number of Burmese killed by Thai fishermen to eight, a police source in this southern province said yesterday. Despite the discoveries, a reported seven Burmese citizens are still missing.

Eight Burmese fishermen aboard a Thai fishing trawler owned by Narong Canning Company (NCC) were beaten to death by Thai crewmembers following the cancellation of the company's fishing rights early this month.

Police earlier this week arrested two Thai crew for clubbing at least two of the Burmese fishermen to death. Many Burmese nationals escaped the killing spree by jumping into the waters off the Andaman Sea.

Sukhum Phaeyet, chief of the Immigration Office in Ranong, said the tension in the border area between Thailand and Burma has begun to ease as the Burmese authorities have allowed its citizens people to buy some goods from Thai territory with prior permission.

Somkiat Satthachit, president of Thai Chamber of Commerce in Ranong, said both countries have suffered huge financial losses from the incident, which he valued at approximately 100 million baht each day. Cross-border export and import in Ranong amounts to 10 and 90 million baht respectively per day.

Editorial Urges More Cooperation With SAARC

BK2108051095 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 21 Aug 95 p A 4

[Editorial: "Linking Thailand and South Asia Needs Greater Committment"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The decision of the Banhan government to revive the South Asia Sub-Continental Economic Cooperation Program, linking Thailand with Burma, Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka, is a timely act and should be applauded.

It must be acknowledged that the ambitious scheme was first visualized by the Chuan government and proposed by its Economic Relation Committee, chaired by former deputy prime minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak. The proposal was then approved by the Council of Economic Ministers.

The program, known as the Andaman Economic Cooperation Growth Area, calls for increased cooperation between three members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) — namely India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka — with Burma and Thailand. The cooperation covers trade, foreign investment and joint-venture developments related to fishing, infrastructure, tourism, transportation services, human resources and environmental protection.

The Sub-Continental Economic Cooperation Program should be seen as Thailand's new strategy to open up more opportunities for the Thai private sector to diversify the traditional markets, to explore new partners and financial opportunities, and to develop closer economic relationships with the South Asian countries. Trade with these countries to the west of Thailand will call for greater use of the Andaman Sea and reduce the country's dependence on the Gulf of Thailand. This new strategy could benefit the Kingdom in terms of marketing and investment opportunities.

India is the largest market in the South Asian regional grouping known as SAARC, which also includes countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldive Islands. The group has often expressed independent desires to be involved with ASEAN and APEC member countries for a greater Asian economic association.

The countries in the region are under various stages of economic development and industrial growth. However, Sri Lanka was the first country in that region to adopt to the market economy since 1979, long before the current economic revolutionary trend which followed the end of the Cold War and was geared by the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and other parts of the world.

For a region that advocated democratic socialism, nationalization of large public infrastructural facilities and protection of native industries, free market economy seems a new challenge. The countries will have to learn to adapt better.

As elsewhere in the world, these countries are very vibrant with economic reforms, political changes, deregulation, privatization, and trade. This region with over 1 billion people, has become a new area where each country is competing for its own survival and for the much needed foreign investment for their infrastructure, social, industrial and economic developments.

India for instance, with a population of nearly 900 million and an growing middle-class of 300 million people clamoring for more and more consumer and household goods, is beginning to open its doors on a case by case basis for foreign participation and investment. It is here where Thailand could begin taking the challenge and staking out opportunities given by this emerging market and the timely linkage.

India and Thailand will certainly play a leading role in the development of the Sub-Continental Economic Cooperation Program. A step towards that goal would be to develop the prevailing bilateral relations between other SAARC member states as well so that they are more oriented towards trade.

As a further step to foster greater inter-regional cooperation in line with Thailand's trade development policy of regional economic cooperation with outside of ASEAN nations, the Thai private sector should follow the three leading communication companies — TeleCom-Asia, Jasmin, and Chinnawat — who are already carrying out mobile telephone projects in major Indian cities. If deregulations and economic reforms now introduced are any indication, Thai investors cannot overlook the signals emanating from the South Asian region by way of goodwill gestures and trade promotion visits. This is a stepping stone towards eventual economic and cultural cooperation and development.

Vietnam

U.S. Citizen Arrested for Arms Smuggling

BK1908092795 Hong Kong AFP in English 0543 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi, Aug 19 (AFP) — A US citizen has been arrested in the northern Vietnamese port city of Haiphong for allegedly smuggling firearms into the country, officials here said. The Foreign Ministry here said Everett Milton was picked up "recently" and will be tried under Vietnamese law.

A US embassy representative was expected to meet Milton on Saturday [19 August], the ministry added, however US officials in Hanoi were unable to confirm the identity of the American. An embassy spokesman said simply that for the moment the US citizen was under arrest and that an investigation was underway.

The arrest comes less than two weeks after US Secretary of State Warren Christopher opened the newly-established embassy, and is the second case it has had to deal with involving Americans accused of offences here. A week ago two Vietnamese-born US citizens accused—along with seven other people—of being "counter-revolutionaries" in the southern commercial hub of Ho Chi Minh City. The nine were sentenced to between four and 15 years in prison. The US State Department Friday called on Hanoi to "reconsider" the prison terms handed down to the two Vietnamese-Americans and to five Vietnamese Buddhists who were jailed Tuesday. The clergymen, including the number two in the United Buddhist Church of Vietnam (UBCV), were jailed this week for up to five years for organizing a relief mission to help flood victims.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Japanese War Apology

Previews Diplomatic Activities

BK1808140595 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At a news conference in Hanoi on 17 August, in reply to a question raised by correspondents from the international news agencies KYODO and REUTERS as well as from the BBC on Vietnam's reaction to the Japanese Prime Minister apology for Japan's action during World War II, Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mrs. Ho The Lan said Vietnam welcomes Japan's efforts to close the tragic part of war and open a new chapter of cooperation for development with nations in the region.

Mrs. Ho The Lan said relations between Vietnam and Japan have been developing in favor of the aspiration of both peoples. The Governments of Vietnam and Japan have always been paying attention to history and the aspiration of their peoples.

Regarding future Vietnamese diplomatic activities, Mrs. Ho The Lan said Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam would lead a Vietnamese delegation to the first meeting of the Vietnam-Malaysia Joint Scientific-Technological, Cultural, and Economic Commission next month. The two sides will sign an official document on the establishment of the joint commission and discuss ways to improve bilateral relations and sign an agreement on avoidance of double taxation. In late August, the trade minister, the president of the People's Supreme Court, and the vice minister of education and training will visit Yunnan, Sichuan, and Beijing in China and also travel to (?Angola) and Africa to strengthen bilateral ties.

Vietnam is also preparing to welcome a Cambodian delegation led by its Foreign Minister Mr. Ing Huot to attend the first session of the Vietnam-Cambodia Joint Commission on Scientific-Technological and Economic Cooperation to be held in Hanoi in September. The two countries are to review bilateral cooperation in the recent past and work out goals for further development of comprehensive bilateral cooperation.

Other visitors to Vietnam will include the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization Mr.

(Jack Dean) and the permanent secretary of the Latin American Economic Organization.

Mrs. Ho The Lan said that on August 28, the Vietnamese Foreign Affairs Ministry will observe its 50th founding anniversary. There will be a grand meeting, an exhibition, and a scientific conference together with the publication of the book called: "International Integration and Preservation of Vietnam's Characteristics," and also videos on Vietnam's diplomatic activities for the past 50 years.

Spokesman's Statement Reported

BK1908151395 Hanoi VNA in English
1451 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA August 19 — Vietnam welcomes Japanese Prime Minister [PM] Tommiichi Murayama's apologies on August 15 for Japanese behaviour during World War Two, said a spokesperson for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry while answering many questions relating to the Japanese PM's apologies by media workers.

The spokesperson said: This is a new effort made by the Japanese Government to close the past war tragedy and open up a new chapter of cooperation and development with other countries in the region. In Vietnam, in 1945 a tragic situation took place.

Vietnam holds that the development benefit of the Vietnamese-Japanese cooperative relations requires our concern to the reality of history. This is suited to the aspiration of the people of the two countries.

Radio Reviews Japanese Financial Assistance

BK1808141495 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Japanese Government will grant Vietnam 18.2 million U.S. dollars to help upgrade primary and lower secondary schools in three northern provinces. Here is our report on recent Japanese Government assistance to Vietnam:

The Japanese Government officially resumed aid to Vietnam in December 1992. Japan is now the biggest donor to Vietnam in terms of ODA [Overseas Development Assistance], with nearly 480 million dollars in 1993. The Vietnam Donor Conference met recently in Paris and approved 1.86 billion dollars in aid to Vietnam. Japan ranks first among these donors with 550 million dollars.

Japan granted Vietnam around 30 million dollars for infrastructure development relating to social welfare, culture, education, and health. In July 1994, the Japanese Government granted Vietnam 430,000 U.S. dollars for its 1993 fiscal year to procure equipment for the Vietnamese Animated Cartoon Studio. Since early this year, the Japanese Government has granted Vietnam more funds in the cultural, health, educational, and social fields. Another big change of the Japanese Government's grant to Hanoi Conservatoire valued at 430,000 U.S. dollars in its fiscal year 1994 was signed in Hanoi on February 17th by the Vietnamese deputy foreign minister, Mr. Vu Khoan, and the Japanese charge d'affaires, Mr. (Akihito Kurusa).

In March this year, Japan signed a contract on the Japanese Embassy's small-scale grant assistance for ethnic minority groups in (?Thuan Chau) District in the northern mountainous province of Son La. It was the (?third) small-scale grant assistance by the Japanese embassy in Hanoi since the 1992 fiscal year. On July 3d, 1995, Minister Chairman of the Vietnam Youth Committee Mr. Ha Quang Du and the Japanese ambassador to Vietnam, Mr. Kazuo Ogura, signed a minutes of understanding on a Japan-Vietnam youth friendship program. Under this minutes, from now to 1999, the Japanese Government every year will receive 100 Vietnamese youth to work in the economic, educational, and agricultural fields.

Japan also helped Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia through international forums. The Indochina Development Forum held in Tokyo recently was the biggest of such forum so far. It was participated by 24 delegations and representatives of seven international organizations to discuss financial assistance to the three Indochinese countries. Following this forum, governments and international organizations have given positive and fruitful assistance to Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

VBC Buddhists Petition for Release of Colleague

Rights Group Protests Sentence

BK2008132895 (Internet) SEASIA Listserv in English
17 Aug 95

["Announcement" issued by the Vietnam Committee on Human Rights in Paris on 16 August]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Vietnam Committee on Human Rights strongly protests against the recent sentences pronounced against Thich [Venerable] Quang Do and five other prominent UBCV [United Buddhist Church of Vietnam] leaders at an unfair tail in Ho Hi Minh City on Tuesday, and expresses deep concern over today's announcement by Hanoi's official news agency that the UBCV's highest dignitary, the Very Venerable Thich Huyen Quang, will stand trial shortly in Quang Ngai and Thich Long Tri, the third highest UBCV official, member of the Central Executive and former Head of the UBCV Rescue Mission for flood victims will also be tried in Quang Nam. The announcement of these forthcoming trials is particularly alarming since it follows systematic denials by the Vietnamese Government that the Patriarch has ever been placed under arrest. Hanoi Foreign Ministry spokesmen rejected the Vietnam Committee's report of Thich Huyen Quang's arrest on December 29th 1994 as a "fabrication", saying that he had been "moved to another pagoda at the request of other monks". The coming trials of these two high UBCV dignitaries has not only caused shock and strong reaction from the international community and from UBCV Buddhists, but also from Buddhists dignitaries in the State-sponsored Church in Vietnam (VBC).

The Vietnam Committee received today a Petition addressed to Communist Party Secretary Do Muoi and other Government leaders calling for the release of Venerable Thich Huyen Quang. The Petition (Ref. 09/PGBD/VT, made at Long Khanh Pagoda, Qui Nhon), is signed by forty-nine VBC officials, including the VBC Chairman of the Executive Committee for Binh Dinh Province Thich Ke Chau, the entire Executive Board and the heads of 7 VBC district and municipal sections (Qui Nhon City, Tuy Phuoc, An Nhon, Tay Son, Phu Cat, Phu My and Hoai Nhon) in Central Vietnam. This is the first time that State-sponsored Church officials have voiced support of a UBCV leader since the Church was banned by the Government in 1981.

"Thich Huyen Quang is a high figure of contemporary Buddhism", stated the Petition. "Side by side with the people and the Buddhist Church, Venerable Huyen Quang has endured suffering, humiliation, imprisonment and harassment in his combat against social injustice, religious discrimination and for religious freedom under several previous regimes. What crime did (Ven. Huyen Quang) commit against the nation or the people that lead you to detain him incommunicado, isolate him and deny him the right to a public trial? For over 13 years, since you banished Venerable Huyen Quang to his native village, he has been deprived of freedom of movement (...), controlled, isolated, with severe restrictions imposed on his right to communicate and receive visits, even from his closest family or disciples. What a bitter humiliation for Vietnamese Buddhism — our pagodas have become prisons where Buddhist monks are confined!". The Petition's signatories express concern that Thich Huyen Quang's conditions of detention have become increasingly harsh since he was arrested on December 29th 1994 and placed under detention in "a remote, isolated location" near Quang Phuoc Pagoda, Nghia Hanh district, in the Province of Quang Ngai: "since then (...), Venerable Huyen Quang has been subjected to much stricter surveillance and complete isolation. Not one single person has been allowed to visit him, bring him food-parcels or attend to his health, despite the fact that Venerable Huyen Quang is now almost 80 years old." "We, the undersigned, all members of the Binh Dinh Provincial Executive Committee of the Viet Nam Buddhist Church, the VBC district and municipal sections, and on behalf of Buddhist monks, nuns and laity from the native province of Venerable Huyen Quang (...) respectfully call upon the nation's leaders:

to release immediately and unconditionally Venerable Thich Huyen Quang and all other imprisoned Buddhist monks and followers. By taking the above steps, you will be truly fulfilling the State's policy of reconciliation;

if you esteem he has committed a criminal offense, however, Venerable Thich Huyen Quang must be granted the right to a fair, public trial. Representatives of the Buddhist Churches inside and outside the province should be present throughout proceedings;

pending this trial, free and regular visiting access must be granted to the disciples and family of Venerable Thich Huyen Quang. Buddhist sources in Quang Ngai report that the Patriarch's health has deteriorated seriously since he was arrested and moved to Nghia Hanh. He is detained in a small cell 100 metres away from the Quang Phuoc Pagoda. The cell is constantly surrounded by Security Police. Thich Huyen Quang suffers from high blood-pressure, but has not been allowed to receive any medical treatment since his arrest on December 29 1994. The Vietnam Committee on Human Rights calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Venerable Thich Huyen Quang, Thich Long Tri, Thich Quang Do and the five other Buddhists sentenced on August 15th. Their continued detention constitutes a gross violation of Vietnam's binding commitments to the international community for the protection of human rights.

Imprisoned Buddhists Lodge Appeals

BK2008132995 (Internet) SEASIA Listserv in English 18 Aug 95

[Statement issued by the Vietnam Committee on Human Rights in Paris on 18 August]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Vietnam Committee on Human Rights has been informed that Venerable Thich [Venerable] Quang Do, Thich Khong Tanh, Thich Nhat Ban, Thich Tri Luc and lay-Buddhist Nhat Thuong (Pham Van Xua) lodged appeals yesterday (17.8.1995) against the sentences pronounced against them by the People's Court in Ho Chi Minh City on August 15 1995.

On August 16th, Thich Quang Do, 68-year-old Secretary General and second highest dignitary of the Unified [as received] Buddhist Church of Vietnam (UBCV), was transferred to the Ministry of the Interior building in Nguyen Trai Street, Ho Chi Minh City, where he is now detained. The other four were taken to Chi Hoa Prison, Ho Chi Minh City.

The right to appeal is guaranteed by Article 205 of the Vietnamese Criminal Procedures Code: "A defendant, injured party or their lawful representative have the right to appeal the verdict or decision of a preliminary trial", and reinforced by Article 207, which says that if the person lodging an appeal is under detention, "the jail supervisory board must ensure the defendant's right of appeal". Appeals must be filed within 15 days of the verdict (Article 208).

Contrary to statements made by the Foreign Ministry in Hanoi, there appears to be no clause in the SRV Criminal Procedures Code that proscribes foreign lawyers from defending citizens in Vietnam. The three French lawyers from the International Federation on Human Rights (FIDH) mandated by the UBCV have therefore reiterated their demand for visas to prepare the appeal hearing, and to meet with Patriarch Thich Huyen Quang to prepare the defence case of his coming trial. In a Press Statement issued on August 16 1995, the FIDH denounced the trial of Thich Quang Do as a "parody of justice" and declared its intent to pursue the case in international circles.

Ho Chi Minh Court Imprisons 'Reactionaries'

BK1908135595 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As already reported, on 11-12 August, the Ho Chi Minh City people's court opened a preliminary hearing to publicly try Nguyen Dinh Huy, alias Ngo Tran Luan, and accomplices for carrying out activities to overthrow the people's administration.

Through interrogations and court deliberations, Nguyen Dinh Huy and accomplices admitted that their activities were in violation of the law of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and posed a direct danger to national security and political stability because they were aimed at opposing and overthrowing the people's administration. The [words indistinct] set up by Nguyen Dinh Huy with its own political platform and constitution was in fact a reactionary political organization to serve the peaceful evolution strategy that reactionaries both at home and abroad hoped to bring to fruition through sophisticated and brazen schemes.

Taking advantage of our party's renovation policy, they used the pretext of democracy and human rights to distort the truth of history, smear the Vietnamese communist party and state, instigate bad elements at home, and contact hostile forces abroad to feverishly oppose our state in an attempt to set up a people-betraying and nation-harming regime. A check of their personal backgrounds indicated that they spent almost all their lives serving the enemy of our people and giving a helping hand to the aggressors' attempts to oppose our country.

The administration warned them and used educational measures on them after it discovered their sabotage scheme. Nonetheless, they stubbornly contacted reactionary forces abroad and carried on their scheme aimed at opposing and overthrowing the people's administration. Their activities posed a particular danger to society and was detrimental to national security. Therefore, there was sufficient evidence to charge them with activities to overthrow the people's administration as defined under Article 73 of the Civil Code.

The adjudicating committee passed the following sentences:

— 15 years' imprisonment on Nguyen Dinh Huy;
— 14 years' imprisonment on Pham Tuong;
— 12 years' imprisonment on Bui Kim Dinh;
— 11 years' imprisonment on Nguyen Ngoc Tan;
— 11 years' imprisonment on Dong Tuy;
— eight years' imprisonment on Nguyen Van Bien;
— seven years' imprisonment on Nguyen Tan Tri;
— four years' imprisonment on Chan Quang Liem; and
— four years' imprisonment on Nguyen Van Chau.

All the means they used to carry out their criminal plot were confiscated.

Correction to Ho Chi Minh Court Jails Buddhists

BK1908105895

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Ho Chi Minh Court Jails Buddhist Dissidents," published in the 16 August Southeast Asia DAILY REPORT, page 59:

Column two, make sourceline read: Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 15 Aug 95 (correcting date);

Page 60, column two, first full paragraph, only sentence make read ...Da Nang Provinces for action. [dqoois vowis lee dqinhf nhanf, lys truwowngf chaau cos lieen quan dqeens vuj ans naayf, cow quan an ninh coong an thanhf phoos hoof chis minh quyeets dqinhj bawts vaf chuyeenr giao toanf booj hoof sow taif lieeuj veef hanhf vi phamj tooij cuar nhanf vaf chaau cho coo quan an ninh dqieeuf tra coong an tinhr quangr ngair vaf tinhr quangr nam-dqaf nawngr xuwr lys] [new graf]

The trial received... (deleting word, supplying vernacular)

Australia

Protesters Picket PRC Embassy on Nuclear Test

Trade Unions Ban Deliveries

LD1808122795 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0700 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australian trade unions have imposed bans on the supply of goods and services to the Chinese Embassy in Canberra in retaliation for China's nuclear testing program. The pickets, to be imposed randomly by the Trades and Labor Council in the Australian Capital Territory [ACT], could disrupt mail deliveries and maintenance of telecommunications equipment. The council's secretary, Jeremy Piner, says action outside the Chinese Embassy will not interrupt existing pickets at the French Embassy, also imposed as a protest against nuclear testing.

[Begin Piner recording] Our main focus of attention will continue to be the French program in the South Pacific but we also believe that a very strong message needs to be served on the Chinese that they are not immune to our views and, with the rolling [as heard] pickets we will be conveying to them that the union movement, and hopefully the ACT community at large, also condemns their nuclear program. [end recording]

Demonstrators Burn PRC Flag

LD1808124795 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Chinese Embassy in Canberra has condemned the burning of a Chinese flag by antinuclear protestors camped outside the embassy. The protestors have been rallying against China's latest nuclear test, carried out yesterday in the north-west of the country. In a brief statement the embassy says the flag burning has greatly hurt the feelings of the Chinese people and for that it expresses its great indignation. The statement says the embassy believes such behavior will be condemned by all Australians.

Vanuatu Plan To Join Nuclear Free Zone Praised

LD2008104195 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0900 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia has welcomed Vanuatu's plan to sign and ratify the South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty [the treaty of Rarotonga]. Foreign Minister Gareth Evans says he applauds the decision, announced last week, as a further expression of overwhelming opposition by South Pacific countries to French nuclear testing. Senator Evans says the move will reinforce the South Pacific Forum's continuing efforts to leave France in no doubt as to the strength of regional opposition to its nuclear testing decision. He says it will also highlight the determination of all Forum nations to achieve a South Pacific free of nuclear weapons and nuclear testing. Vanuatu will be the 12th forum member to join the South Pacific nuclear-free zone.

Delegation Named for European Antinuclear Lobby

LD2008110395 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1000 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Australian Government has released details of a parliamentary delegation that will visit Europe next month to lobby against French nuclear testing in the Pacific. Alexandra Kirk reports six politicians will visit eight European capitals to relay the South Pacific's anger at the French decision.

[Kirk] Pacific Island Affairs Minister Gordon Bilney will lead the multiparty delegation, which includes the Labor MPs [members of parliament] Roger Price and Garrie Gibson, coalition foreign affairs spokesman Alexander Downer, who will represent the Liberal Party, the National Party's Ian Sinclair and Australian Democrat senator Vickie Bourne. They'll spend two weeks visiting Bonn, Brussels, London and Paris, The Hague, Stockholm, Copenhagen, and Vienna, making Europeans and their MPs aware of the depth of anger in the South Pacific.

Mr. Bilney says in Paris they'll also refute claims that Australia's strong antitest campaign is motivated by hostility to France's presence in the Pacific. The delegation leaves in two weeks.

Indonesian Importers Threaten To Boycott Goods

LD1908102895 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0900 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Indonesian importers have threatened to stop buying Australian goods unless the Australian Government takes stronger action against flag burners. They have also called on the Canberra government to expel exiled members of East Timor's pro-independence movement, Fretilin. Michael Maher reports from Jakarta:

[Begin Maher recording] The Indonesian Association of Importers says that, unless the Australian Government takes stronger action against demonstrators burning Indonesian flags, it will stop buying Australian goods in a month's time. The threat follows a series of incidents in Australian cities this past week in which protestors set Indonesian ensigns alight. Demonstrators outside the Australian Embassy in Jakarta yesterday burned a number of Australian flags in retaliation. Australian officials are taking the Importers Association threats seriously. Indonesia imports some U.S. $1.5 billion worth of goods from Australia each year. However, the Indonesian military's official spokesman has said that the spate of flag burnings won't harm relations between the two countries' armed forces. Brigadier General Suwarno Adiwojoyo said that to allow links to be affected would be to play into the hands of a small group of people trying to destroy bilateral ties. [end recording]

Project To Aid Papua New Guinea Health Care

BK2008124395 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia has announced an aid project worth 15 million Australian dollars to help Papua New Guinea [PNG] become more self-sufficient in health care. Development Cooperation Minister Gordon Bilney says the four-year project aims to greatly reduce PNG's dependence on expatriate health professionals. Mr. Bilney says that by the year 2000 it hoped PNG nationals will occupy 80 percent of the medical workforce and form up to 75 percent of the Health Department's specialist medical officers. The project is designed to accelerate the number of medical graduates and improve training of specialist nurses and allied health professionals such as radiologists and physiotherapists. It will also seek to increase the number of women entering medicine as a career.

New Zealand

PRC Envoy Given 'Dressing Down' Over Test

BK2108031395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0253 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Wellington, Aug 21 (AFP) — China's ambassador to New Zealand Huang Guifang was Monday given a diplomatic dressing-down over last week's nuclear test when he met Foreign Minister Don McKinnon. The meeting lasted just over 15 minutes.

Huang refused comment after the meeting and instead distributed a written statement confirming the underground test conducted four days ago. It said China had exercised "utmost restraint" in its testing programme.

Speaking shortly before cabinet, McKinnon said he told the ambassador New Zealand wanted an end to the entire testing programme. He told him New Zealanders were "most aggrieved" by the test.... "(it) tells us that China still wishes to actively involve themselves in the stockpile in nuclear weapons." He said he attempted to point out that the move only further escalated nuclear armament, instead of moving towards disarmament as wished by the rest of the world.

The ambassador had argued that China tested less than any other nuclear weapon state. The Chinese felt they had been left behind in developing weapons technology and wanted to catch up.

But McKinnon said New Zealand rejected that position. "If there is to be a comprehensive test ban for the whole world, all nuclear weapon states have to participate."

The Chinese statement said China urged other nuclear weapon states to respond positively to its initiative by starting negotiations immediately for a treaty on "mutual non-first-use" of nuclear weapons and an agreement on non-use or threat of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear armed states and nuclear-free zones. China has said it will sign the comprehensive test ban treaty next year.

"Our view is—the same that we've conveyed to France—if you're going to sign it next year, why don't you stop testing now," McKinnon said. Continued testing showed states were still considering using nuclear weapons.

McKinnon denied New Zealand's reaction to China had been more tempered than its reaction to the resumption of French underground testing at Mururoa atoll. The Government, however, realised France had put itself in a much weaker position having signed the moratorium on testing and then breaking it. "New Zealanders also do feel much more aggrieved about France because they feel there's been a decision taken on one side of the world to test on the other side of the world.

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